

Iraq: U.S. arms will not alter balance

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassas said secret U.S. arms supplies to Tehran would not change the balance of forces on the Iran-Iraq war. He told the Beirut-based magazine Al Nahar, in an interview to be published on Monday: "Iraq still possesses complete superiority." The minister said a "great conspiracy" between the United States and Israel was behind the arms deal. The Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiya also aired the theory, saying in an editorial: "It was a conspiracy planned by several international circles to undermine Iraq's military superiority and its future development."

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Iraq reports new raid on shipping

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked a "very large naval target" in the Gulf near the Iranian coast on Saturday. A military spokesman said the target was hit at 7 p.m. and all aircraft returned safely to base. Use of the description "very large" indicated the attack might have been on a supertanker. Iraq had not used the term for more than a year.

Ireland to close Beirut embassy

BEIRUT (AP) — Ireland is closing its embassy in Lebanon, citing economic and security reasons, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. The announcement said the Irish decision was relayed to the Foreign Ministry in Beirut through diplomatic channels. Irish embassy officials were not immediately reachable for comment. The embassy staff in west Beirut will leave Lebanon in 10 days, the announcement added, without further elaboration.

Sheikh Zayed in Sanaa for dam opening

MANAMA (AP) — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in the North Yemeni capital Sanaa on Saturday for the inauguration of the Mareb Dam, the official Emirates News Agency reported. Sheikh Zayed financed the \$90 million project, which is designed to secure water supplies for the Red Sea state located on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

Shamir assails U.N.

CAIRO (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted on Saturday as saying the United Nations was not the most suitable body to negotiate peace. "The U.N. is not the best qualified organisation capable of achieving peace anywhere in the world. It is a mere meeting place for foreign ministers," he told the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram in an interview. Mr. Shamir said he favoured the formation of a ministerial committee comprising Egypt, Jordan and Israel to negotiate Palestinian "self-rule" and conditions for co-existence between Israel and the Arabs. Mr. Shamir said that he did not rule out the convening of a Middle East peace conference "but possibly only after we (Arab countries and Israel) reach agreement first through direct negotiations."

Chirac scores political victory

PARIS (R) — Right-wing Prime Minister Jacques Chirac won a key test of strength against Socialist President Francois Mitterrand on Saturday when the French Senate approved social measures including a controversial labour law reform. Mr. Chirac's coalition of Gaullist RPR and centre-right UDF deputies pushed through the reform, which will allow women to work at night and introduce greater flexibility in the working week, despite strong protests from Mr. Mitterrand's Socialist allies. The Senate approved the social measures bill by 315 votes (RPR and UDF) to 87 (Socialists and Communists).

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Jordanian and Saudi leaders discuss Arab situation and summit

King scheduled to visit Kuwait after talks with Saudi monarch in Damascus

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

DAMMAM — Their Majesties King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia opened talks here Saturday on topics believed to centre on the latest developments in the Arab arena and moves towards convening an Arab summit.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks, which were attended by senior officials from both sides, were within the course of consultations and coordination between the two countries in relation to developments in the Arab arena in a bid to further boost bilateral cooperation.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that ways and means to convene the much-delayed 13th Arab summit were expected to figure high in discussions between the two monarchs. Inter-Arab differences, a rift between Syria and Iraq prominent among them, have held up the gathering of the Arab heads of state since 1982.

Both Jordan and Saudi Arabia are trying to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences and the sources

expected the issue to be discussed by King Hussein and King Fahd. The sources said the Jan. 26 Islamic summit to be held in Kuwait was also expected to be an item in the agenda for the talks. Kuwait has asked Jordan to exert efforts towards clearing the Arab and Islamic atmosphere and make it conducive to the total success of the meetings of the heads of member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the sources said.

According to the sources, Jordan was also hoping that if an Arab summit, long called-for by His Majesty the King, could not be convened before the Jan. 26 gathering in Kuwait, Arab leaders could meet on the fringes of the OIC meeting.

The Kuwait News Agency

(KUNA) reported on Saturday that the King was scheduled to visit Kuwait on Sunday after his talks in Saudi Arabia. The agency said the King's talks with King Fahd and Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah were expected to concern prospects for the Arab summit conference.

King Hussein, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival Saturday afternoon. King Fahd led the Saudi delegation that welcomed the King.

The King was seen off from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Cabinet members, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and senior civil and armed forces officials.

Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

Walsh to have wide power in probe into U.S.-Iran-contra deal

Focus shifts to whether any funds at all reached Nicaraguan rebels

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A Watergate-style special prosecutor with wide powers will take over the major investigation into arms sales to Iran and diversion of the profits to the right-wing Nicaraguan rebels known as contras.

Judge Lawrence Walsh, 74, was directed by a special three-judge federal panel to investigate fully official and unofficial U.S. support since 1984 for the contras and the Iran arms deal.

Mr. Walsh's appointment as special prosecutor was announced Friday as congressional committees completed preliminary investigations of the operation which has rocked the presidency.

Attorney General Edwin Meese told the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee that Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, who directed the Iran-contra operation from the White House.

U.S. not to 'pressure' Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait said Saturday the United States had denied it was asking for the release of 17 terrorists held in Kuwait whose freedom has been demanded by kidnappers holding Americans in Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad said the assurance was included in a message he received from Secretary of State George P. Shultz and delivered by U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton.

Reports of U.S. pressure to free 17 convicts in return for American hostages held by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad have surfaced lately as part of the U.S.-Iran arms scandal.

Sheikh Sabah quoted Mr. Shultz as saying in the message: "The United States has nothing whatever to do with such pressures."

The 17 have been convicted for the December 1983 bombing of the U.S. and French embassies and four government buildings in Kuwait.

*North visited Beirut in October, page 2

had told him President Reagan had no knowledge of the diversion of profits to the contras.

Mr. Meese admitted the administration had only a vague idea how much money was involved and whether the contras ever received any.

Mr. Meese suggested Mr. Reagan may have been under sedation following cancer surgery when he approved the first shipment of arms to Iran in August 1985, Congressman George Brown said (See page 2).

The house committee is expected to question retired Air Force General Richard Secord, who helped Col. North, early next week.

Former White House National Security Council (NSC) chief Robert McFarlane and Mr. Reagan's chief of staff, Donald Regan, gave contradictory testimony to congressional investigators.

Mr. McFarlane said the president gave verbal approval for arms to be sold to Iran early in August 1985 in the hope of achieving better relations with its revolutionary government, ending the Iran-Iraq war and winning the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Mr. Regan said the president gave his consent for the deal after an arms shipment had been made to Iran and the release of one hostage had been secured.

Mr. Meese, who disclosed the apparent diversion of funds from the Iran sales to a Swiss bank account to which the contras had access, told reporters "at this date, we don't know exactly how much money was involved."

In his original announcement on Nov. 25, Mr. Meese had estimated \$10 million to \$30 million.

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. and Israel also involved in Angolan arms, page 2

Reagan finalises Midgetman missiles and mobile MXs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has decided to proceed with development of a small, single-warhead intercontinental missile called the "Midgetman," the White House announced Friday.

Mr. Reagan also has approved a plan to design a new rail-based system for deployment of the giant MX missile, the White House said in a statement.

It said the "Midgetman" missile would be mounted on mobile launchers, either at existing missile bases or "in random movement."

The MX and Midgetman programmes, it continued, "are an integrated package" in Mr. Reagan's plan to modernise the U.S. nuclear weapons force.

The White House did not mention a specific number of missiles it hopes to build, but Mr. Reagan is expected to ask Congress to authorise another 50 MX nuclear missiles that would be deployed by placing them on rail cars.

Mr. Reagan's decision has been expected for more than a week, since Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger forwarded to the

White House his recommendations and the findings of an air force study.

Congress had ordered the air force to review the MX and Midgetman programmes at a turning point for the United States' land-based nuclear arsenal.

Unlike the Soviet Union, the United States does not have any mobile, land-based intercontinental missile.

Congressional leaders have argued that such mobile missiles would make the United States' nuclear forces more survivable and add to deterrence by complicating Soviet war plans.

The Pentagon has already begun developing the Midgetman missile in response to such congressional arguments. But the Reagan administration also has argued forcefully — so far to no avail — that it needs 100 of the giant, 10-warhead MX missiles.

The administration sources said Friday that Mr. Reagan had decided to tie the two programmes together in his fiscal 1988 budget proposal and add the feature of mobility to the MX in hopes of overcoming congressional opposition.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent before His Majesty the King's departure on a working visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday (photo on left) and the King is seen off by the Crown



Prince and senior officials following the swearing-in ceremony (Petra photo)

OPEC adopts majority accord to reassert hold on market

GENEVA (R) — OPEC, with the sole but significant dissenting voice of Iraq, has adopted a twin plan of output cuts and fixed prices to charge the world more for crude and to reassert its grip on the world oil market.

Twelve of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) 13 states agreed to a Saudi Arabian proposal to cut output by 7.25 per cent in the first half of next year and to set take-it-or-leave-it prices of \$18 a barrel by February.

The move heralded a major softening of position by the group's biggest exporter, Saudi Arabia, which had resisted output cuts.

It was also a setback for radical Iran, which had been shaping OPEC's output policy over the past six months, delegates said, although they added that it was Iran's final, pragmatic willingness to approve the accord without Iraq's endorsement that broke the deadlock.

More importantly, it could signal the final reverse of the oil price collapse which started a year ago when massive overproduction by OPEC caused prices to crash from \$30 a barrel to lows of nine in July, they said.

Iraq refused to accept a cut in its output because the other 12 states would not meet its long-standing demand for an output quota equal to its Gulf war for Iran, leaving a significant chink in an otherwise firm show of unity.

"This agreement is not real because it has not been unanimously endorsed. To raise the price of oil to a reasonable level is an objective shared by all, but the path to achieve that objective should not be at the expense of Iraq," Iraqi Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi said in a statement.

All states have been given a month to ratify the agreement. It says that if any one member breaks the accord, the others are not bound by it, a clause which could test the group's often leaky production discipline, delegates said.

Under the terms of the agreement, clinched just before dawn Friday morning, OPEC would cut its output from around 17 million barrels per day (bpd) to 15.8 million bpd in the first six months of next year.

This would siphon more than a million bpd of OPEC production from the over-supplied world oil market to help raise prices to the OPEC goal of \$18 a barrel from around \$14.50 when the talks began on Dec. 8.

But with Iraq disassociating itself from the agreement, the cutback computes to about four per cent, and it remains to be seen how this will match oil traders' expectations when the free market opens in Asia on Monday morning. (See details on page 7).

The other line of attack on the world oil market is a decision to return to fixed prices around an \$18 base.

Syrian troops overpower Tawheed in Tripoli flare-up

Fighting escalates around Beirut camps

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops in tanks and armoured cars on Saturday overran the last pocket of Muslim fundamentalist resistance in the north Lebanese city of Tripoli after more than 30 hours of fierce battles, police said.

Sporadic shooting died away around midday as heavily armed Syrian troops hunted for hostile militiamen in the crowded fundamentalist district of Tabnash and other areas of the port city, the sources added.

Police said at least 30 people were killed and 60 wounded in the fighting, described as the worst for more than a year in Tripoli, 75 kilometres north of Beirut.

In Beirut, "camps war" fighting escalated late Saturday with tank shells falling on Palestinian camps at a rate of 10 a minute, residents said.

Syrian troops reopened the main road from Beirut to Tripoli, 70 kilometres north of the capital, after it had been closed for 24 hours because of the fighting, which residents described as the

worst in the city for more than a year.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon and has some 25,000 troops in north and east Lebanon. Several hundred were deployed in Tripoli 15 months ago at the end of battles between Tawheed and Syrian-backed leftist guerrillas.

Analysts have connected the battle with the "camps war" in Beirut and South Lebanon, because of past ties between some Tawheed officials and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Syria blames the fighting at Palestinian refugee camps on what it describes as PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's attempts to reestablish his Lebanon power base, while Mr. Arafat says Syria and its Shi'ite Muslim Arab militia allies are trying to drive Palestinians out of Lebanon.

Tripoli-based reporters said Saturday the Syrians brought in infantry reinforcements to quell hit-and-run grenade attacks on their checkpoints by masked

Tawheed militiamen in Tabnash, a traditional Tawheed stronghold.

Meanwhile, PLO fighters and militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal duelled with mortars and machine guns around Beirut's refugee camps of Shatilla and Bourj Al Barajneh.

Police said two people were killed and seven wounded in the Beirut fighting.

The casualties raised the known toll from 26 days of PLO-Amal battles in Beirut and South Lebanon to 531 killed and 1,356 injured, by police count.

PLO communiques said Palestinian fighters crushed an attempt by Amal militiamen to storm the besieged camp.

Amal, on its part, accused Palestinian gunners of "indiscriminate shelling" densely populated Shi'ite slums around the Beirut camps from the Lebanese central mountains.

A hard-line Amal official dealt a new blow to Iranian efforts to

(Continued on page 3)

Pakistani cabinet resigns over Karachi violence

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The Pakistani cabinet resigned on Saturday in the wake of Karachi's worst inter-communal riots which have left 184 people dead and hundreds injured in the country's biggest city.

A government spokesman said Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who stays in office, would name a new cabinet within a few days.

The mass resignation of all 22 federal ministers and 12 ministers of state occurred at the end of a detailed cabinet debate on law and order following this week's disturbances.

Meanwhile a young boy was shot dead and another seriously injured when troops opened fire on a few breakers in the strife-torn port city, eyewitnesses reported by Reuters said.

Police also reported an exchange of fire between Pakistani and Afghan Pathans after an explosion in a residential suburb. A 13-year-old Afghan boy was injured.

Pathans have been involved in ferocious clashes all week with the traditionally rival Mohajir community of migrants from other parts of former British India after 1947-partition.

The two groups had accused each other of drug-trafficking and provoking last week's major anti-narcotics drive against the predominantly Pathan suburb of Sohrah Goth, in which hundreds of houses were bulldozed.

The government has blamed drug-dealers for inciting the riots, which broke out after a group of Pathans went on a spree of shooting, stabbing and burning in a Mohajir area.

The government did not say that the resignations were the direct result of the rioting, and there had been speculation that Mr. Junejo would reshuffle the cabinet to improve its effectiveness before the disturbances started.

Police also reported an exchange of fire between Pakistani and Afghan Pathans after an explosion in a residential suburb. A 13-year-old Afghan boy was injured.

PLO wants league to reconsider Syrian mandate in Lebanon

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urged the Arab League on Saturday to reconsider its 10-year-old mandate over Syrian peacekeeping troops in Lebanon.

Arab League foreign ministers are due to hold an emergency meeting in Tunis on Monday to discuss Lebanon's "camps war" between the Shi'ite Muslims Amal militia and Palestinians.

Some 700 people have been killed since September 30 in the struggle for control of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, said in an interview with Reuters that Syria had intervened directly on the side of the Amal militia besieging the camps.

He said Syria had violated the terms of a 1976 Arab League decision to set up an Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) to try to stop Lebanon's civil war. Some 25,000 Syrian troops remain in Lebanon.

"It should be noted that the Syrians failed to keep the peace in Lebanon," Mr. Kaddoumi said. "Therefore the Arab League should reconsider this mandate given to the Syrians."

Mr. Kaddoumi said he would head the PLO delegation to Monday's meeting.

Partly as a result of strong Syrian opposition, only four foreign ministers turned up at the first meeting. The PLO has since sent envoys to leaders of the 21-member Arab League to urge high-level attendance this time.

Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO wants an Arab League committee — preferably at foreign minister level — to oversee a ceasefire and implement decisions taken by the emergency meeting. It also wants an Arab force to safeguard the camps.

هولاء صند لاصول

UNRWA opens new West Bank schools

LONDON (J.T.) — Over one thousand Palestinian refugee children in the West Bank last month moved into two spacious new schools built by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) with funds from the Arab Gulf Programme for the U.N. Development Organisation (Aqfund), according to a report by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU).

One, at Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, is a preparatory school for boys, and the other, at Bidlo, north west of Jerusalem, is a preparatory school for girls.

At the opening ceremonies, Dr. Mohammad Sa'di Faqih, chairman of the board of trustees of the West Bank's Birzeit University, who is also UNRWA's

deputy field health officer for the region, read a speech on behalf of Aqfund's president, Saudi Arabia's Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz.

"My message to my Palestinian brothers and sisters," said the prince, "is to put all their efforts into the acquisition of education and knowledge," and he went on to pay tribute to UNRWA's "endeavours to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people."

A land-lease agreement was signed last month relating to a third Aqfund-financed school, to be sited at Rummeh, near Nablus. Designs for the building have already been prepared by UNRWA's technical staff at its Vienna headquarters.

Egyptian team arrives in Aqaba to discuss tourism

AQABA (J.T.) — The Egyptian governor of southern Sinai arrived here Saturday at the head of a delegation for a four day visit to Aqaba.

The governor, Mr. Mohammad Nour Afifi, said in a statement that he will discuss with Aqaba officials means of promoting tourism between Aqaba and Sinai through local tourist and travel agents.

The Egyptian delegation was greeted upon arrival by Mr. Bassam Qaish, president of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) and other local officials including Aqaba District Governor Khalil Khreisat.

Earlier this month, Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib signed an agreement with his Egyptian counterpart, Mr. Fouad Sultan, for the establishment of a joint company to develop tourist attractions on the Gulf of Aqaba.

The two countries also agreed to return to the pre-1967 flight route between Cairo and Amman. The route will cut flight time by 20 minutes and save up to \$7 million a year in fuel costs, according to Mr. Amin Al Hussein, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Meteorologists expect more rain, drop in temperatures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Meteorological Department expects more rain throughout the Kingdom and snow on mountains over 1,000 metres high within the next three days, the department director, Dr. Ali Abandah, announced here Saturday.

He said that temperatures are also expected to drop gradually during the coming three days due to the presence of a depression now centering over northern Greece and moving towards the eastern Mediterranean region.

In the past few days, Jordan witnessed heavy rains as a result of a depression over the eastern parts of the Mediterranean. The depression deepened Friday

afternoon bringing heavier rains especially on Ajloun mountainous regions which received nearly 60 millimetres of rain, Dr. Abandah said.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department (PSD) has issued warnings to motorists to take extra care in driving. It said that roads in the southern regions of the Kingdom, especially Ras Al Naqab on the main Desert Highway, were difficult for traffic due to the accumulation of snow.

The PSD said that roads near Jerash, Al-Mudawara and the Queen Alia International Airport were densely foggy, making driving difficult.

Syrian soldiers overpower Tawheed in Tripoli

(Continued from page 1)

arrange a lasting truce to end the 11 weeks of fighting, already blocked by the refusal of the Palestinians to withdraw from strategic positions won near Sidon.

A speech distributed by Amal quoted Daoud Daoud, one of Amal's senior South Lebanon officials, as calling on Iran to withdraw its diplomat-mediator Issa Tabatabai from the area "because he is an agent of Arafat."

Mr. Tabatabai has stayed inside the Amal-besieged Palestinian camp of Rashidiyah, near Tyre, since Dec. 10, saying he will not leave without settling the crisis.

Arafat loyalists want Amal to lift sieges of Rashidiyah and camps in Beirut before they will withdraw from the disputed positions near Sidon.

In another development, the official Lebanese news agency quoted diplomatic sources as saying that Lebanese President Amin Gemayel had received a message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

It stressed "Washington commitment to an independent sovereign and unified Lebanon that has no foreign forces on its territories," the sources said.

Mr. Gemayel has denounced

what he describes as the resurgence of Palestinian military power in Lebanon.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has called the "camps war" suicidal and welcomed the latest overtures towards Syria by President Gemayel, a newspaper reported Saturday.

"We fail to understand the current fighting between brethren, which is tantamount to a massive suicide project that only benefits the common enemy," Mr. Karami told the Kuwait newspaper.

"We believe that fighting should be halted and all rifles directed to the Israeli enemy," Mr. Karami praised a recent statement by Mr. Gemayel calling for rapprochement with Syria and said "we always advised President Gemayel to foster strong links and common interests with Syria as dictated by considerations of history, geography and common destiny."

He expressed the hope that the current contacts would lead to an early summit between Mr. Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "with a view to restoring stability and security to war-torn Lebanon."

Mr. Karami bitterly accused Arab states of "abandoning

Cabinet endorses establishment of new industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday gave its consent for the establishment of new industries in a number of regions in the Kingdom and decided to give exemptions and facilities for these industries, according to a statement from the Prime Ministry.

The statement said that the Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali, formed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the executive committee of the Council of Arab Health Ministers due to convene in Baghdad on Jan. 8. The delegation, it said, will be led by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

The Cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to the Council of Arab Ministers of Sports and Youth due to open in Tunis on Jan. 14. Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat will lead Jordan's delegation to that meeting.

Parliament to debate 1987 fiscal budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament is to debate the Kingdom's 1987 fiscal budget during a session to be held on Tuesday. The call for the meeting was issued by House Speaker Akel Al Fayez.

Finance Minister Hanna Odeh presented the JD 1,018 billion budget to Parliament on Dec. 6 and the House's financial committee has already discussed it in detail. The new budget projects a JD 39 million deficit.

ARA expected to upgrade poor areas

AQABA (J.T.) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) is expected to spend an estimated JD 16 million to upgrade the poorest areas of Aqaba. The scheme, to be financed by a loan from the World Bank, is aimed at improving about 4,000 plots of land and at housing 20,000 people rather than building new homes for them.

The ARA will have to demolish a number of homes to lay down "water and sewage systems and to improve roads; but funds have to be approved by the World Bank in the coming six months."



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma presents diplomas to graduates of the Social Services Centre in Madaba district on Saturday.

Princess Basma graduates social service trainees

MADABA (Petra) — A total of 120 trainees graduated Saturday from the Social Services Centre in Madaba district at a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF).

The ceremony was addressed by the centre's director, Mr. Ahmad Qtaish, who outlined the objectives of the QASWF-sponsored centre and the progress it achieved. The centre, which was set up in cooperation with Madaba municipality and the Ministry of Public Works, contains a general conference hall and is adjoined by a public garden, Mr. Qtaish said.

QASWF's director of social services centre, Mr. Salem Shawabkeh, made a speech outlining the types of training courses given by the centre which, he said, are intended to help raise the social and economic standard of local families.

Towards the end of the ceremony Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the graduates who received training in dress-making, weaving, embroidery, flower arrangement, domestic science and handicrafts.

Later, Princess Basma opened a charity bazaar organised by the centre. The bazaar displays items of clothes, paintings and artificial flowers made by the centre's graduates.

Madaba district governor and other local officials and heads of charitable societies attended the ceremony.

Police receive honours for Arab Police Day celebration

AMMAN (Petra) — A major celebration was held at the Palace of Culture of the Al Hussein Youth City Saturday to mark the Arab Police Day. Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali made a speech in which he paid tribute to the role of police men and women in maintaining security and stability in the country.

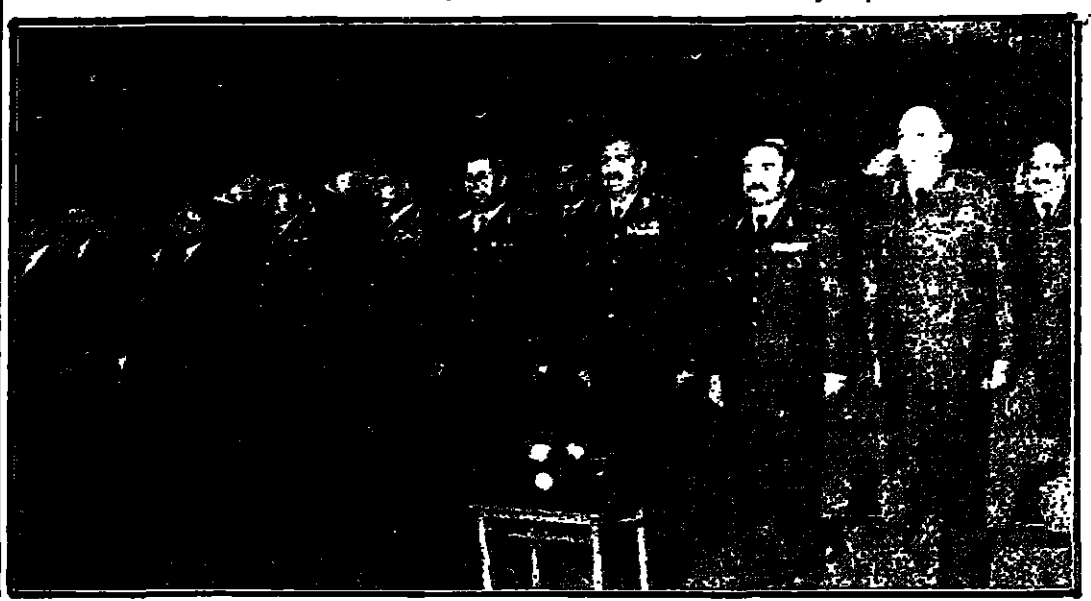
Arab police forces have developed sufficiently to meet their various duties and to contribute to the building of their societies and to serve public

interests, Lt. Gen. Majali said. He said the police force in Jordan, which has been shouldering the responsibility of safeguarding security and serving the public,

pledges to continue its endeavours under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

Also addressing the celebration was Mr. Daifallah Hmoud, president of the Jordanian Friends of the Police Society, who paid tribute to the police force's efforts in serving the Jordanian people.

Lt. Gen. Majali later distributed badges to veteran policemen and officers who have a distinguished record, as well as retired officers who served with the Public Security Department.



'On the Banks of the Jordan' exhibits unique paintings

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

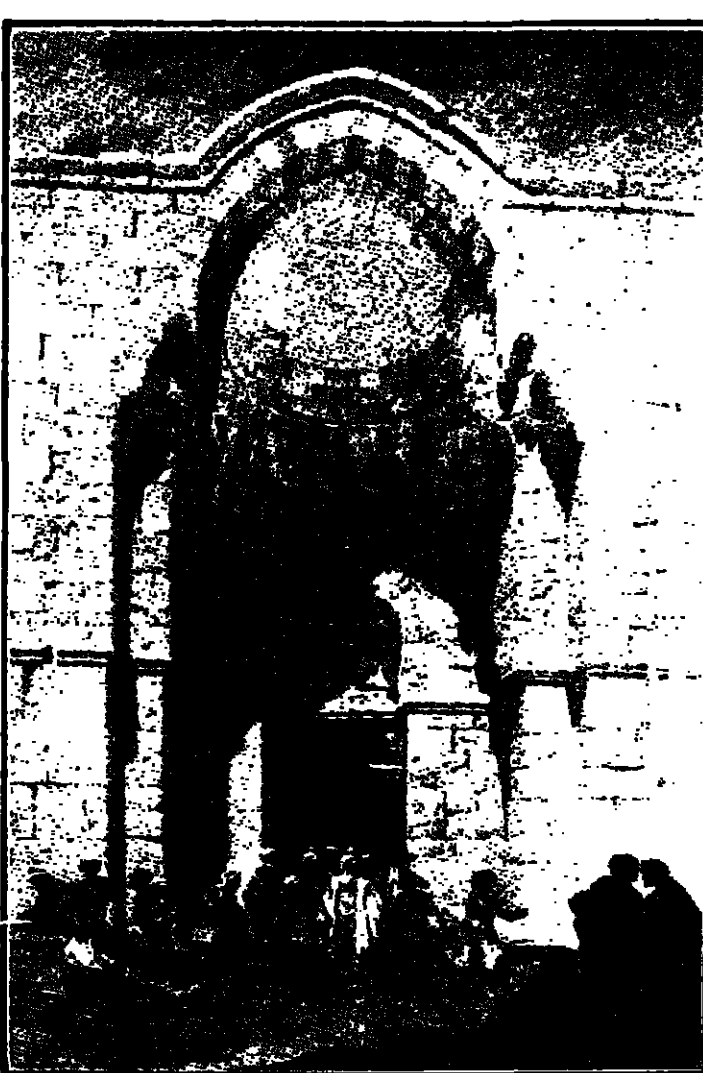
AMMAN — Over the last ten years there have been many exhibitions both here and abroad devoted to the "Orientalists" — those intrepid European travellers of the late 19th Century who came to the Near East to take back its treasures in the form of paintings. Not all these shows were good, but good or bad they were generally very diverse, including paintings of different parts of the Arab World by artists of various nationalities and cultures. The present exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery is thus an "Orientalist" exhibition with a difference and one to whet the appetite of even the most jaded palate.

Entitled "On the Banks of the Jordan" it consists of around 50 high quality watercolours, prints and oils that deal exclusively with Jordan as seen through the eyes of 19th Century British artists. Drawn from museums and private collections, this exhibition is especially appealing not only because we are familiar with and have come to love the landscapes and towns — still easily recognisable despite the passage of time — these artists have caught but also because, devoid as the exhibition is of all usual exotic found in such shows — the odalisques and the harem to mention but a few — it is more down to earth, more real. Less exaggerated, it is in tune with our thinking and perception today of this part of the Arab World like at the turn of the century.

The idea behind the exhibition, which was initiated by former British Ambassador to Jordan Sir Alan Urwick around 18 months ago, is, according to British Council Representative David Latta, to allow us to form an opinion about the "Orientalists." "By collecting together a sufficient number of representative works we should be able to ascertain for ourselves whether David Roberts deserve all the exposure he gets and whether these artists are as good as we have been led to suppose etc. We hope to get some answers from this exhibit," Mr. Latta told the Jordan Times.

The exhibition, which is being held in cooperation with the Royal Society for Fine Arts and the British Council, was selected by research student Miss Kathleen McLaughlin. Already working on a thesis on the Orientalists, Miss McLaughlin was commissioned to travel the length and breadth of both England and Jordan to find and select the paintings for this exhibition, which have ultimately been loaned from Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath; Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Mrs. Muna Rifai, Mrs. Nawaz Zaid Ibn Shaker, Dr. Hisham Khatib, Mr. Mamdouh Bisharat, Mrs. Thompson, the Searight Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, the Bury Art Gallery and Museum, Lancashire, The Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, Bedford, The Hams Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, Hereford City Museum, the Leicestershire Museum and Art Galleries, Leicester, Manchester City Art Gallery, the Oldham Art Gallery, the Petra Bank, Amman, and the Royal Holloway College, Egham.

David Roberts Of the 20 artists whose work has



The Gate Khateneen, by Carl Haag, is one of the paintings on display at the Exhibition of Nineteenth Century British painters being held at the Jordan National Gallery from Dec. 18 to Jan. 23.

been included, David Roberts has to be the most well known. The subject of a huge retrospective currently showing at the Barbican Arts Centre in London, Roberts has perhaps never been so popular, not even during his own lifetime when he was highly regarded. Born in 1796, the son of a poor shoemaker, Roberts began his prolific career as a painter of stage scenery. From 1824 onwards, in search of picturesque subject matter, Roberts travelled all over — visiting Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon in 1838-9. The oil from this period, "Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives with Pilgrims returning from the River Jordan" is the most historically important painting in the exhibition. Being the first of several versions Roberts was to paint later, this oil was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1841 where it was lauded as a picture of "the highest class; deeply interesting in subject and of surpassing excellence as a work of art." Seen today it looks very Victorian with its dark forbidding atmosphere and moralistic undertones. Despite the scudding patches of sunlight and the obvious technical brilliance, the picture remains unappealing to the modern eye.

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Another artist whose work is immensely appealing is John Fulleylove. An architect by profession, Fulleylove travelled extensively abroad, many of the resulting drawings being used to illustrate travel books which were then popular. Considered to be one of the finest draughtsmen of his time, Fulleylove caught to perfection the huge panoramic sweep down to the Dead Sea shimmering in the distance, passing over terraced slopes on which sheep and goats graze in the crisp, clear air. And, instead of the traditional views of Jerusalem, Fulleylove shifted his gaze to look down over a patchwork of roofs — some domed, some tiled — alive with all different kinds of human activity from grinding the corn to weaving the rugs.

Islamic architecture

The artists who seemed more interested in Islamic architecture than the local life and landscapes were Carl Haag and Tristram Ellis. The work of both these artists is staggering in their detail and perfection and Ellis' "The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem" painted in 1895, and Haag's "The Gate called Khateneen" of 1864, have to be

faithfully as to even have lit the interior of the dome above the gate with reflected light. Magnificently composed and executed, one would never tire of these masterpieces.

The name Holman Hunt is perhaps better known for its pre-Raphaelite connections than as an Orientalist. Hunt, however, established himself as such an artist after a visit to the Holy Land in 1854 and was praised as being "a painter who grounded religious art in geographical and historical fact." For many, Hunt's work might be overworked, the colours too deep and bright, but most would agree "The Holy City, The Mosque of Al Aqsa by Moonlight" to be something special. Full of rich turquoises, green and muted blues, the sense of night with its deep shadows is serenely complete.

Able amateurs

Not all the best portrayals of the Holy Land were done by professional artists — several extremely attractive pieces were the work of able amateurs, travellers to the area who recorded their impressions like many of the time, not with the camera but with the brush. One of these was Mrs. Maria Mathias, who accompanied her husband on a tour through Europe and the Near East in 1857. Her paintings of the "Crusaders Castle, Graia, Gulph of Akaba" (her spelling) and Lake Tiberias are lightly handled works full of delicate colours that make an immediate and lasting impression.

Other extremely good and interesting paintings come from Paul Ellis, William Bartlett, Walter Tyndale and Thomas Allom.

This unique and quite exceptionally enjoyable exhibition, with its excellent accompanying catalogue, can be seen at the Jordan National Gallery until January 23rd.

ART REVIEW

among the best works of the exhibition. Both paintings are dominated by huge monumental buildings whose every stone has been lovingly depicted — in Haag's case down to the last crack and crevice. In both works, the figures, although full of life and gaily clad, are secondary to the building, acting as devices to set the scale and to add a touch of vitality to the main theme — the architecture. Both artists have flooded their work with the clear penetrating light so characteristic of Jordan, Haag capturing it so

Focus shifts to whether any funds reached contras

(Continued from page 1)

nillion in profits had been diverted to the contras.

He said Friday that was "a very rough approximation" based on information given him by Col. North, who was dismissed from the NSC after the Iran-contra deal was exposed.

Congressional sources have speculated, after hearing testimony from administration officials, that the amount may actually have been \$4 million to \$10 million.

"Nothing I have heard at any time from anybody would give me conclusive proof that money did in fact get to the contras," Mr. Meese said.

"I only know that people told me it was intended the money would be made available to the contras."

Mr. Meese had suggested Mr. Walsh should limit his investigation to the past two years, but the three-judge panel that appointed him said he should investigate aid to the contras in the

last three years.

The panel said he should find out how it was provided and if any profits were diverted to "any person, organisation, foreign government or any faction or body of insurgents in any foreign country including but not limited to Nicaragua."

Mr. Walsh is also empowered to investigate any obstruction of justice or false testimony stemming from the scandal.

The special prosecutor can bring his evidence and witnesses before a grand jury, which meets behind closed doors and is sworn to secrecy.

If the jury agrees that indictments are warranted, Walsh would then bring the case to public trial.

Col. North wrote a memo for his files outlining the plan to divert to the contras, a source close to the house committee said.

While the Justice Department has been unable to establish the time the North memo describing the plan was written, the source told AP, "my impression was ... it

was April (1986) ... it gave the outline of the plan ... to divert profits from the sale of arms to Iran, to support the contras."

Meanwhile, Vice President George Bush called on Col. North to tell what he knows about the Iran-contra connection, and Mr. Walsh promised a "fair and thorough investigation."

The Capitol Hill source quoted Mr. Meese as telling the committee that Col. North was shocked when the memo apparently the first documentary evidence of a diversion plan was discovered in his NSC files late last month.

Mr. Reagan fired Col. North on Nov. 25.

The White House, meanwhile, said Mr. Reagan had no plans to replace CIA Director William Casey, who underwent surgery Thursday for removal of a cancerous brain tumour.

A Georgetown University hospital spokesman said Mr. Casey, 73, was "in stable condition and doing well" Friday.

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Sad end for moratorium

IT WAS sad to hear the news that the Soviet Union would no longer be bound by its unilateral moratorium on underground nuclear tests after Jan. 1, 1987. Apparently Moscow took the decision for fear that the U.S. is on the verge of a breakthrough aimed at perfecting the much-feared space-strike weapons for its "Star Wars" programme. The Soviet Union has not conducted underground nuclear tests for nearly 18 months in the hope that the U.S. would follow suit. But all in all, the U.S. has carried out 24 nuclear tests at its Nevada test site while the Soviet Union maintained its observance of the unilateral moratorium.

The biggest loser in this whole affair is clearly world peace and security. It is most unfortunate that the U.S. chose to ignore the Soviet initiative and persisted instead in its nuclear testing. Under the circumstances, it was only a matter of time before the Soviet Union would have to reconsider its position and start all over again its own programme of nuclear testing. In dismissing the latest Soviet proposal on nuclear testing as irrelevant to the U.S. policy, the world has the right to ask and ask most forcibly: What is in fact relevant to the U.S. nuclear policy if a Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing is not? When will the U.S. ever renounce nuclear testing? Would it not stand to reason that even a small breakthrough would encourage the search for even greater breakthroughs, leading to effective arms control measures?

When the two superpowers were more distant than ever from reaching a breakthrough on nuclear arms control and eventual disarmament, the world was able to take a sigh of relief upon hearing that the Soviet Union had declared a unilateral moratorium on underground nuclear testing 18 months ago. Now, however, the momentum towards disarmament appears to have stalled with no breakthrough in sight, notwithstanding the euphoria that was generated by the Iceland summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev.

As the end of this year is fast approaching it is a pity that even the modest step towards arms control which was taken by the Soviet Union has also been sacrificed! The year 1986 will thus go down in history as another futile year in the annals of arms control negotiations. It certainly does not augur well to the prestige and credibility of the U.S. that it would be faulted as the culprit in not cooperating with the Soviets' in trying to rid the world from the awesome consequences of a nuclear arms race.

We hope that there still is some chance left for Moscow and Washington to reconsider their positions on nuclear testing and announce their willingness to renounce nuclear testing this year. If this is not possible, well, we do not know how 1987 can be a better year to proceed with solving the more difficult issues between the two superpowers.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: An ineffective Arab League

THE Israeli authorities have finally seized the assets of the Jerusalem District Electricity Company in total defiance of the Arabs and with disregard to all principles and international laws. It is clear that this step is intended as part of the Zionist movement's drive to Judaize the Arab city of Jerusalem and ruin all installations and assets belonging to the Arab citizens in the city. But despite this grave development and serious challenge to Arab identity and Arab rights, the Arab League has done nothing except issuing condemnation of the Israeli move and appealing to the United Nations to deal with the situation and help preserve Arab rights. This attitude gives the impression that the Arab League's role has shrunk and has been transformed into a body which can only issue condemnation and lodge complaints to the international organisation. In the past, the Arab League resorted to effective weapons like the oil weapon and joint Arab action vis-a-vis any move by Israel to infringe on Arab rights and interests, but now it seems that the Arab League has no power left except to issue condemnations or appeals. But this week's attitude reflects the state of affairs that exists in the Arab World, and an image of disunity and differences among Arab countries which in turn encourages Israel to pursue its aggressive policy towards the Arab Nation. Jordan had earlier drew the Arab countries' attention to the seriousness of the Israeli move which was pending then, and which formed another step in Israel's expansionist designs. Jordan extended support to the Arab company and did all it could to save it from falling in Israeli hands. But in the absence of concerted Arab action, the Israelis have succeeded in their designs. This Israeli move coincided with the announcement in Tel Aviv that agreement has been reached between Israel and Egypt for the increase of the latter's supplies of oil to Israel. This oil is the source of power to Israel and its power stations, and will no doubt help it consolidate its hold over the Arab assets. The Arab has failed to extend support to the Arab company and have therefore contributed to Israel's success in seizing its assets.

Al Dustour: New hope for war end

WE take new hope from a statement by the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) that an Islamic summit could be held soon to discuss the Gulf conflict. Islamic leaders should by now realise the gravity of the situation in the Gulf region, and the need to stop the bloodshed that has been going on for more than six years. The Islamic World should have realised by now the serious developments of the past weeks which saw a disclosure of American arms shipment to Iran for prolonging the war against Iraq and for weakening the Islamic nation and causing further splits within the Arab and Islamic ranks. Iraq has realised the aims and objectives of the enemies of the Arab and Muslim nations and for this reason, has called on Iran to start negotiations for ending the war. Iraq realised that the prolonging of the war offends the Israelis and the Americans a real chance for tampering with the interests and the rights of the Arab and Islamic nations. The involvement of Iraq in a war with Iran will inevitably prevent it from shouldering its share in the struggle against Zionism and liberating Arab territories. Iraq has realised that through Camp David the Arabs have lost Egypt and that through the continuation of the Gulf conflict they are bound to lose Iraq and its power which is needed to liberate Arab territories. For this reason we hope that a new OIC summit will help end the conflict in the Gulf region and prompt Iran's rulers to opt for peace and for negotiations leading to a durable settlement.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another threat from Iran

ONE of Iran's rulers Hashemi Rafsanjani announced in Tehran on Friday that his country would be willing to play the role of police in the Middle East and the Gulf and protect American interests in the two regions. Rafsanjani has thus announced openly Iran's collusion with the United States following U.S. arms shipments to Tehran through Israel. By making the announcement, Rafsanjani has thus opted to speak out frankly of Iran's ambitions and objectives and said that his country wanted to play a role similar to that of Israel in the region. Of course this attitude reflects clearly Iran's hostile stand towards the Arab countries and its total subjugation to the wishes of the United States and Israel. By making the announcement, Rafsanjani is hoping to acquire further American help and support militarily and politically in order to enable his country to dominate the Arab Gulf region and pursue the aim of invading Arab countries. Rafsanjani is openly requesting American help to enable the Tehran regime to expand its influence in the Gulf and impose hegemony on its peoples. It is also an open call on Washington to make a new alliance with Tehran now that the American arms shipments have been regularly reaching the Iranian capital through Israel. It is needless to say that if the U.S. administration chooses to respond favourably to Iran's request the stability and security of the Middle East and the Gulf region will be at stake.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Typical indicators of the Jordanian economy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE economic recession in Jordan, now four years old, has been manifested in several ways and could be measured against typical indicators:

- Economic growth has slowed down to something close to zero for four consecutive years.
- Unemployment has risen to a double-digit figure. It is now feared that the unemployment rate may rise by 3 per cent a year, if investments continue at the present slow pace.
- The deficit in the current balance of payments account has worsened. The net reserves in foreign exchange have dropped, and the external debt has increased rapidly.
- Tax revenues have declined, and the Treasury raised recurrent expenditure and lowered investment in real productive capital formation.
- The volume of external trade has shrunk. The first three quarters of 1986 had witnessed a drop in imports by 18.5 per cent and a decline in exports by 13.5 per cent.
- Real estate costs, rents and prices of vegetables and fruits have declined by some 30 per cent from the peak of 1981.
- Prices of shares have plummeted in the Amman stock exchange market every year since its turning point of May 1982.
- The recession was initially triggered by external factors, but internal factors have also been responsible for its intensity and continuation. Among the external factors are:
- The Gulf war has protracted beyond the wildest expectations.

and the financial toll of the war on the Arab side has topped \$120 billion.

- Arab financial support for the Treasury dropped by around 60 per cent. Compared to \$1.25 billion committed by the Arab oil producing countries, and \$1 billion received in 1981, the actual amount received in 1986 has not exceeded \$400 million.
- Remittances from expatriates stagnated and then dropped. Official statistics have not yet reflected all the decline because of the shift from unaccountable channels of moneychangers to the banking system.
- Gulf imports of Jordanian products have fallen sharply. Turkish agricultural products in particular replaced Jordanian products due to cheaper prices, and the unfounded suspicion that Jordanian agricultural products may be partially originating in the West Bank and Gaza, where there is no absolute guarantee that no Israeli inputs are used.
- The labour market in the Gulf has dried up. It was previously accommodating one-third of the newcomers to the labour market. Even if expatriates did not return, the fact that no more expatriates are going to the Gulf is sufficient to worsen unemployment.
- Internally, several factors and policies may have contributed to the problem:
- The high natural growth of population at 3.8 per cent a year. Jordan by far has witnessed one of fastest population growth in the world. Because of this explosion we find that 55 per cent of the population is below 15 years of age, which results in a growth of

labour force by six per cent a year — something that is beyond the ability of any economy to accommodate.

— Over and above the natural growth of population, we have the voluntary and involuntary migration from the West Bank and Gaza. Some estimates put this movement at two per cent a year of the Arab population under occupation. This unwanted movement may have been helped by easing the restrictions at the bridges, and the issuance of temporary passports to Gaza citizens.

— The door was wide opened for non-Jordanian workers to fill jobs in every sector such as trade, management, financing, and clerical jobs. For instance it is estimated that over one thousand non-Jordanian engineers are employed in Jordan at the expense of Jordan nationals.

— The implementation of unsound economic policies such as borrowing during the fat years, which has made debt service a growing burden.

Under these external and internal factors, part of the capacity of the Jordanian economy was made idle. This includes 12 per cent of labour force, 40 per cent of arable land, 11 per cent of houses and offices, 40 per cent of manufacturing capacity, besides the underutilisation of natural resources.

An opinion widely held by many economists in this country is that there are several steps which could and should be taken to combat the recession. Those steps must be taken shortly and seriously, but that is a topic for another discussion.

Israel's dangerous African game

By Jane Hunter

IF score is being kept in the contest for the hearts and minds of Africa, in 1986 Israel came out slightly ahead of the Arab side, with two diplomatic partners. The Ivory Coast and Cameroon both reneged on the Organisation of African Unity's (OAU) 1973 resolution to withhold recognition from Israel. The Ivory Coast even ventured to open an embassy in Jerusalem. One or two other African governments might re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future.

Against these Israeli gains must be measured the speedy removal to Tel Aviv of the Ivory Coast's embassy after threats by Arab League members to break relations with the Abidjan government. There is also the continued solidarity with the Palestinian cause of all those members of the OAU which did not renew diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv, and the scorn with which Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe dismissed those who did: "You will always get deviants and puppets in any organisation."

However, while the score might continue to be reckoned by how many votes each side can rack against the other at the United Nations, the rules have changed. Israel is no longer biding to regain African friends — all but four of which had broken ties by the end of 1973 — with its paucity of development assistance programmes and its direct line to U.S. aid givers. It has begun to play a more dangerous game.

The change was apparent in the way Israel portrayed its resumption of ties with Cameroon. The Israelis had advertised the lavishness of agricultural, infrastructural and military programmes bestowed on Zaire and Liberia in exchange for renewing diplomatic ties with Israel (in 1982 and 1983 respectively). Although delivery lagged considerably in some instances, the assistance was touted as an alternative to Arab-funded development aid. The visit of Shimon Peres to Cameroon on Aug. 25 to mark the

restoration of ties — the first by an Israeli prime minister to sub-Saharan Africa in 20 years — included the signing of cooperation agreements covering agriculture, trade and industry, tourism, communications, housing, and construction, as well as Israeli promises to buy cocoa and coffee. Peres brought industrialists and businessmen along, raising hopes of Israeli investment. Yet the Israelis spoke only perfunctorily about the prospects for economic and technical cooperation with Cameroon.

Instead, Israeli officials let it be known that struggle for Cameroon had been won by assisting the Christian president, Paul Biya, to beat back an attempted coup d'état by his Muslim predecessor, Ahmadou Ahidjo, in April 1984. At least one-sixth of Cameroon's 10 million citizens are Muslim. Word also came from Israel that since 1984 Israeli military assistance had been directed to strengthening Biya's presidential guard and that Cameroon's top officers were taking training in Israel. Other reports revealed that an Israeli military mission has been established in the capital Yaounde and 50 Israeli military advisers have set up a paramilitary police corps and rebuilt an army of 6,000. That Cameroon had obtained military equipment from Israel was evident from the Gail rifles carried by Biya's presidential guard, as well as their made-in-Israel uniforms, which appeared to one observer to be Israeli army-cast-offs. During the Peres visit it was also reported that the Biya government would buy a dozen Israeli-made Kfir fighter-bombers and four Arava short-take-off-and-landing planes. *Jane's Defence Weekly* said the total price tag would be \$70m.

Military aid had always been the great unmentionable in Israel's diplomatic endeavours. Now in Cameroon Prime Minister Peres spoke openly of the agreement on the "military/security issue" that he signed along with the other pacts during his visit. "What Israelis could do for Cameroon in the field of defence, whether external or domestic, President

Biya must have already learned from the defeat of the recent comeback bid by his Muslim predecessor, Ahmadou Ahidjo," editorialised the *Jerusalem Post*. This gave an ominous ring to Peres' statement that Israel was making a "new start in Africa." Such phrases have often been used in conjunction with Israeli diplomatic breakthroughs, predicting a "return" to Africa and the imminent renewal of diplomatic ties by this or that country. Israel has maintained covert economic and military dealings with many African countries and had "interest sections" — de facto diplomatic missions — in Gabon, Kenya and Togo, but it has yearned for the legitimacy of formal diplomacy.

Israel's ready disclosure of how Cameroon's recognition was gained suggests that Israel is now offering intervention on behalf of African leaders whose hold on power is threatened as a quid pro quo for formal relations. (It also suggests that Israel has decided — erroneously or purely for propaganda — that its adversary in Africa is the ascendancy of Islam).

At present, Togo's President Eyadema is a leading candidate for such a deal with Israel. With the help of French and Zairian troops, Eyadema survived an attempted coup in September. He is thought to have been pressed by Zaire's President Mobutu to let Israel reorganise his personal security force. Both Mobutu and Liberia's Samuel Doe are said to be guarded by Israelis. The arrival of Doe in Togo in early October — once before, in 1983, Doe visited Eyadema to plead Israel's cause — followed by representatives of the Israeli Knesset and foreign ministry indicates at least a strenuous attempt on Israel's part to turn Eyadema's distress to its advantage.

Another candidate might be Sierra Leone, whose new President Mench has seen a brief honeymoon give way to widespread popular dissatisfaction. Mohamud's emissaries met with Israeli officials in London in late August, reportedly to discuss re-establishing formal ties.

Meanwhile, opposition figures in Sierra Leone have been scandalised by the government's cordiality to the Lat company, which has recently set up shop in Freetown and which critics say is a South African sanctions-buster, staffed by Israeli and South African nationals.

Israel's muscle has recently been flexed for Liberia's Samuel Doe. In the autumn of 1985, the Israeli embassy in Monrovia played a key role in smashing a very popular coup against the young, illiterate, and brutal Liberian head of state. Although the U.S. is thought to have been backing the coupists, under the Reagan administration Washington has all but ignored great swathes of West and Central Africa, while Israel has asserted itself in these regions.

Israel is even said to have taken on responsibility for some U.S. intelligence functions in West Africa, a contention that is buttressed by an emerging Israeli connection to an aborted attempt to overthrow the government of Ghana last spring. The plot was foiled when Brazilian authorities boarded an arms-laden ship and arrested eight U.S. mercenaries who said they had been hired to lead Ghanaian dissidents in an overthrow of the government of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings.

A hunt for the authors of the plot has led to the New York offices of Bophuthatswana International Ltd, and two men working there — Solomon Schwartz and Ronald Greenwald, the company president. Greenwald portrays himself as a commodities trader, but the company is registered with the U.S. government as the foreign agent of the South African banustan Bophuthatswana and Greenwald has told of his role in a swap several years ago involving an Israeli pilot held in Mozambique.

While the now imprisoned American mercenaries were led to believe they had signed on with a CIA-sanctioned operation with direct lines to the now infamous National Security Council, they identify Schwartz, who controlled the operation, as an agent of Israel's Mossad. The columnist Jack Anderson calls Bophuthatswana Ltd "a joint

CIA/Mossad front" and says that South Africa was possibly involved. Israel was also implicated in a 1983 attempt to topple Rawlings. It has very likely stepped in to fill the vacuum left in Ghana when the CIA's operations were exposed and dismantled in 1985.

Another South African connection lurks in the shadowy agreements Peres is reported to have made with King Hassan II during his July visit to Morocco. The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and the Paris magazine *Afrique-Asie* say that the Morocco visit resulted in Israel's promising sophisticated arms and advisers for Morocco's continuing war against the Polisario Front for control of the Western Sahara. High-ranking Israeli officers have been seen in Morocco, and the government has recently made a number of concessionary moves toward Israel. While in the past Israel has supplied Morocco with weapons for its war, in recent months South Africa has also assumed a prominent role at the side of the embattled king, providing training and military vehicles.

Meanwhile, as anti-apartheid sentiment mounts, the justification used by Cameroon, Liberia and Zaire that Israel's exchange of ambassadors with Israel, Egypt satisfied the OAU's original grievance against Israel seems to have become irrelevant. A recent canvas of African governments by the Israeli daily

Ha'aretz found that Israel's military and economic links with the white government in Pretoria were the most significant obstacle to their breaking with the OAU's 1973 embargo of Israel (although sympathy for the Palestinian cause also runs strong in Africa). Another Israeli paper, *Davar*, reports that Nigeria and other African countries have indicated they will renew relations with Israel if it ends arms sales to South Africa and revokes licences for weapons production it has granted the apartheid regime — hardly a likely possibility.

In September, the then director of Israel's foreign ministry, David Kimche, went to Nigeria, but his attempt to renew diplomacy was fruitless. The pro-Israeli president of Kenya, Daniel Arap Moi, is now considering withdrawing landing rights for El Al flights to Johannesburg. He also denied Shimon Peres' request for a public visit on his way back from Cameroon. Following Cameroon's restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel, the governments of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Senegal, and the Central African Republic have all issued statements denying that recognition of Israel was under consideration. In Germany the head of Cameroon's outlawed opposition (UPC) charged that by restoring relations with Israel, President Biya had "placed our country in the camp of those who support the racist regime of Pretoria" — Middle East International, London.

LETTERS

Suicidal note?

To the Editor:

SOMEWHERE on the continent of Europe, a promising and progressive university student in his twenties threw himself from a high cliff and died a dreadful death. Not a single person in his neighbourhood imagined that such a gentleman would embark upon such an abominable act.

On a bureau in his father's study he had left a memorandum: "Life is boring; there is no point in going on living."

While going through his son's files and papers, the father was able to lay his hands on abundant evidence to prove that his son belonged to the "Beyond-the-Grave Companions." Members of this group or club are united by the same desperate outlook and the same determination to put an end to their lives.

Suicide was murder at common law. In the United States of America, some jurisdictions still consider suicide as a crime. This is as far as man's laws are concerned. However, God's laws, as revealed to us in His Holy Books, strictly condemn the taking of one's own life whether for a good or for a bad cause.

Under the general provisions of a Life Insurance Policy is a suicide clause which makes it impossible for the insurer after a period of two years from the date of inception of the contract to contest death by suicide in order to avoid payment of the proceeds to the beneficiary. Some companies limit the suicide exclusion period to one year. Obviously, after the expiration of the limitation period, death by suicide becomes a genuine death claim payable to the beneficiary unless it can be proved in a court of law that the deceased (insured) defrauded the insurer by purchasing insurance with the deliberate purpose of committing suicide, and this is not easy to prove. I know of one case only in which the British House of Lords held — "that the condition in the policy implied an undertaking by the insurance company to pay if the assured died by his own hand, sane or insane, after the expiry of one year from the commencement of the policy. However, it is contrary to public policy that either a person who had committed a crime, or his personal representatives, should be allowed to benefit from the crime. Therefore, the policy is unenforceable." Suicide was at that time a crime in Britain.

The following is a typical Suicide Clause:

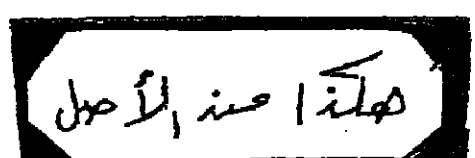
"If within two years from the date of issue the insured shall die by suicide, whether sane or insane, the amount payable by the company shall be the premium paid less any loans."

Such a clause embodied in a Life Insurance Contract and sold in our country is contrary to public policy simply because our constitution and laws consider death by suicide a crime. The following Suicide Clause is proposed:

"If the death of the insured was the result of suicide, the amount payable by the company shall be the cash surrender value less any loans."

In almost all cases of suicide, the victim is inflicted with chronic frustration and depression. The unnecessary infliction of pain and suffering that a victim experiences is mostly due to the victim's upbringing; and the parents should bear the brunt of the charge. For the parents encourage, cheer and applaud their child as he starts submerging and disappearing in world pleasures and luxuries: Money, modern villas, fashionable cars, pin-up girls, and everything that the world can possibly impart upon him. By the time he is in his twenties, he has experienced everything worth experiencing. There and then, he starts prospecting for fun and excitement beyond the grave. Others who are older and supposed to be wiser, resort to suicide in order to escape from some pressing problem that is facing them every minute of every day.

George N. Saig,
P.O. Box 396
Amman



Middle East awakes slowly to dangers of AIDS

By Rory Channing
Reuter

KUWAIT — Cracks are starting to appear in a wall of silence confronting the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its fight against the killer disease AIDS in the Middle East.

Few cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome have been officially acknowledged in the deeply religious and conservative Islamic World.

By October, only Turkey and Tunisia had responded, either positively or negatively, to a WHO appeal for information needed to stop the disease spreading. Each reported two cases.

But concern about AIDS is mounting, several countries have been taking action and more information is slowly surfacing. — In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a top official said last

month 70,000 immigrant workers were screened in a year and 70 foreigners suspected of carrying the AIDS virus deported.

— Officials in Kuwait said a British engineer and two other unidentified expatriates were deported after they were diagnosed as carriers.

— Two cases were disclosed in Saudi Arabia by an American medical journal quoting a report by a specialist hospital in Riyadh. Both cases were blamed on blood transfusions.

— Seven cases have been reported from Cyprus.

— The first two cases in Egypt were revealed this month, one a visiting professor at the American University in Cairo.

Kuwaiti Health Minister Abdel Rahman Al Awadi told reporters the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, would soon

introduce a unified anti-AIDS policy.

He said it would include tests for people from "high-risk" areas but gave no other details.

A regional "strike force" against AIDS has been set up in response to an initiative by the Geneva-based WHO to cover more than 20 countries, mainly Islamic, stretching from Tunisia to Pakistan and home to over 300 million people.

Dr. Mustafa Abu Lisan, director of its Kuwait-based unit, said the aim was to create "centres of excellence" to spearhead the war against AIDS in an area where many countries lacked funds, facilities and know-how for their own campaigns.

"The job is to promote research, diagnosis, training and public awareness," he said of the task force, which also has units in Egypt and Pakistan.

AIDS, which destroys the

body's immunity system, is most prevalent among homosexuals but it can also attack intravenous drug users, heterosexuals and recipients of blood transfusions.

A Kuwaiti doctor, Kazem Behbehani, said official reluctance to disclose AIDS cases to the WHO should fall off when it was realised that homosexual relations — forbidden under the Islamic faith — were not the root cause of the disease in the region.

He said a conference which he organised under WHO auspices in Kuwait identified blood transfusions and use of unsterilised syringes as the biggest AIDS hazard in the Middle East.

The conference endorsed an action plan including a ban on blood imports, limits on the use of blood in medical therapy and screening of blood banks.

Saudi Arabia has decreed that all foreigners visiting the kingdom must prove themselves AIDS-free

but it is believed to have applied the measure selectively.

Officials in Kuwait said some tests were being enforced, for instance on scholarship students from Africa and certain visitors from Asia.

Kuwait's national AIDS prevention committee said the Gulf state proposed to extend screening to high-endemic areas.

The WHO has identified Africa, Australia, Europe and North and South America as areas hit by "substantial endemic or epidemic" outbreaks of AIDS-related disease.

Since AIDS was first identified in 1981, nearly 33,000 cases have been registered, mostly in the United States, according to data compiled by the WHO in October.

One-quarter of the countries submitting data said they were AIDS-free. But the WHO noted a

lack of surveillance systems in developing countries and the slowness of symptoms developing — the incubation period lasts from six months to over five years.

"The reported cases ... are the tip of the iceberg," it said.

Estimates indicated 50 to 100, or even more, virus carriers for each case of AIDS diagnosed and thus "five to 10 million persons in the world are thought to be infected."

Abu Lisan echoed warnings that AIDS should serve as a reminder of the merits of clean living.

"I hope people will make prevention their prime target and abstain from abnormal and unacceptable practices that might lead to the killer disease," he said in an interview.

"Unfortunately, if a cure is found, people will stop worrying," he added.

Singapore aims to become 'a nation of non-smokers'

By Jose Katigbak
Reuter

SINGAPORE — Watch television, listen to the radio, read the newspapers or make a telephone time check and chances are you will be bombarded with warnings on the evils of smoking.

Take a walk and you will see people frantically fanning hands under noses when passing a smoker.

Welcome to Singapore. Welcome to the making of a nation of non-smokers where the government is even considering outlawing smoking if its latest campaign does not make Singaporeans kick the habit.

A flood of publicity condemning smoking has followed the announcement of the three-month anti-smoking campaign by Health Minister Richard Hu on December 1.

More and more hotels, stores, offices and restaurants are declaring themselves non-smoking areas or setting aside more places for non-smokers.

Hu said Singapore's majority non-smokers must be protected from cigarette smoke and warned that the government might introduce laws against smoking if education and persuasion fail.

Vigorous campaigns aimed at altering people's behaviour are not new in Singapore.

Over the years the government has sanctioned scores of campaigns ranging from getting people to smile, be more polite, stop spitting, to asking them to eat more frozen pork — a campaign aimed at encouraging consumption of imported pork so pig farms could be phased out.

Hu said, as well as its anti-smoking campaign, the government was also considering measures including prohibiting cigarette sales to people under 18 and banning cigarettes with high nicotine and tar content.

"I think the government aim is to either shame me or treat me like a pariah to stop me from smoking," one smoker said as he puffed on his cigarette. Nearby a poster proclaimed "If you must smoke — smoke alone."

Other posters warn non-smokers of the dangers of "sidestream" smoke and tell them to assert their right to clean air.

As to the rights of smokers to continue to light up, Hu said: "An individual's right to smoke is overridden by the majority's right to a smoke-free environment."

The highlight of the campaign will be a smokeless week from January 11 during which smokers will be under even more pressure to quit.

Health officials say smoking in Singapore has declined in the past few years from 23 per cent of people 15 years and older to about 19 per cent out of a population of 2.6 million.

The smoking rate increases with age and about half of the men in the 55 to 59 age group are smokers.

Officials say heart disease and cancer are the two top killers in Singapore and many of the deaths could be traced to smoking.

Last year 2,419 people in Singapore died of heart failure, double the number of 10 years ago. Lung cancer deaths almost doubled in the same period from 352 to 695.

The health ministry is distributing thousands of booklets to companies advising them to control smoking on their premises.

The booklet, "How to reduce tobacco smoke in your working environment," details the harmful effects of smoking and warns non-smokers that they will suffer if they live or work in an environment polluted by cigarette smoke.

Health officials suggest that smoking should be banned in places where people work together, in offices with central air-conditioning, and where food is served.

Smoking in government offices is discouraged and there are no cigarette advertisements on radio or television.

The armed forces recently announced sweeping measures to curb smoking including a ban on the sale and advertising of cigarettes in military camps and bases and prohibiting smoking in common offices, meeting and conference rooms.

Military authorities said as a last resort they might ban all those in uniform from smoking.

Even writers of Singapore's films and television series are cutting smoking scenes or cigarette-puffing characters out of their scripts.

Nicaraguan first lady is a poet, politician and revolutionary

By Bryna Brennan
The Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — First lady Rosario Murillo is a poet, politician, and a revolutionary. She is creating what she calls an "artistic offensive."

In Nicaragua, she is known as the "companera" (companion) of President Daniel Ortega, whom she has never married.

"It's not that I'm against marriage," said Ms. Murillo. "If you have respect, cooperation, love and something truthful, it's beyond reproach."

She is the author of five works of poetry, which are filled with her feelings of love, hope, birth, death, her nation, revolution and war.

"I began my poetry when I was

5 or 6," said Ms. Murillo, 35, during an interview at her office at the Sandinista Association of Cultural Workers. "But after the 1972 earthquake I really got serious about it."

Some 10,000 people were killed in the devastating quake, which in part led to the 1979 ouster of dictator Anastasio Somoza. Millions of dollars in foreign disaster aid were squandered, and the capital city of Managua still hosts vast empty lots and building shells.

"I lost a baby son in the earthquake," said Ms. Murillo, who is the mother of seven children, including two from an earlier marriage. "We lost practically everything, our city, our history. I didn't know what to

do with the pain and grief I had inside."

In one of her books, "To Love is To Fight" ("Amar es Combatir"), she dedicates a moving poem "To my son who died in the earthquake." In another, she writes the work is "To Daniel."

Ms. Murillo said she exchanged letters and poetry with Ortega when he was jailed for revolutionary activities from 1967 to 1974. They knew each other as children.

"I never visited him, and perhaps I still feel bad about that. But I was involved in the underground movement then and would have run a risk."

She ran into Ortega quite by accident in a museum in 1977 "in a Latin American city."

"It's not Cuba," she said. "Perhaps it's just part of the magic that I don't want to say."

Ms. Murillo, educated at the Franciscan Greenway convent in Devon, England, worked with the Sandinistas underground from 1969 until they came to power in 1979. She lived part of the time in exile in Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica.

She worked as a secretary and later as an art columnist from 1967 until 1977, with La Prensa newspaper owner Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, who was killed by Somoza's national guard in 1978. The newspaper was ordered closed last June by the Sandinista government.

In 1984 she was elected to the national assembly.

She also brings culture to Nicaragua, and this year she helped arrange for events ranging from the Bolshoi ballet to a concert by the American folk music group Peter, Paul and Mary.

In between her cultural work, writing, reading, exercise and diplomatic responsibilities, she takes time to be with her children. She has a 17-year-old son in the Sandinista army and an 18-year-old daughter. Her other children range in age from 1 to 8.

"I'm trying to have another one," said Ms. Murillo, adding she suffered a miscarriage in July. She said it takes "imagination" to find time to be with Ortega.

During Ortega's trip to Chicago last August she acted as translator "by accident" after the regular

translator got a sore throat.

"I was so frightened. But I only made a few mistakes."

She said she views her work as a way of contributing to the nation and expressing her innermost thoughts.

"I want to create a continuing artistic offensive. We want to prove to ourselves, the people, that the spirit of our people is unbeatable. In a country under attack such as ours we have this obligation."

Rebels, receiving financing from the United States, have been attempting to oust the leftist Sandinista government for the past five years.

"There is still a tenderness, a warmth, love among our people," she said.

Her most cherished activity for quiet time is listening to music. Her favourite musician is Bob Dylan and she says she likes Lionel Richie and John Denver.

"And I love to dance. I get all the children to do it with me," she said.

Ms. Murillo said she longs to have the time to write longer works, perhaps a novel.

"When we achieve peace, when the war is over, I would like to dedicate myself to writing about culture, art and then maybe take a long vacation in Nicaragua."

U.N. plan to preserve old Sanaa under threat

By Dina Matar
Reuter

SANAA — Lack of funds and an exodus of inhabitants threaten plans to save North Yemen's walled capital city of Sanaa, with its bustling souks, quiet alleys and richly-decorated 1,000-year-old buildings.

Officials estimate the plan, launched in 1984 by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will cost \$1 billion and take until the end of the century to complete.

But little progress has been made so far and there have been only symbolic financial contributions, mainly from Italy. The problem has been made worse by UNESCO's own cash crisis following the United States' withdrawal from the organisation.

The officials say Gulf Arab states, which traditionally support the Red Sea country on the southern Arabian peninsula, have not yet acted on pledges to provide money for the project.

Yet Sanaa's old city, offering a vivid glimpse of a disappearing age, is a jewel in the Arab heritage. Stately residences tower up to eight storeys high, their intricate upper brickwork picked out with whitewash.

Inside, alabaster skylights and arched stained-glass windows diffuse glare. Top-floor sitting rooms look over roofs, minarets, and gardens otherwise hidden behind high walls.

Abdul Rahman Al Haddad, director of the board of trustees for the restoration and preservation of old Sanaa, said many of the city's 6,500 houses, some 10 centuries old, would collapse if work did not start soon.

A number of mud-brick buildings have already collapsed because of lack of maintenance and decay, he added.

Haddad said the problem had been compounded by an exodus of more than 20 per cent of the old city's 50,000 inhabitants for more modern areas. "This means little or no maintenance will be carried out by the owners," he said.

Preliminary results of a 1986 census published by the central planning council indicate that of Sanaa's 425,000 inhabitants, only 20,000 to 35,000 now live in the old city.

The city, founded according to legend by Shem, son of Noah, lies in a basin 2,300 metres above sea level, with the blue-grey peak of

Jebel Nuqum standing sentinel nearby.

Earliest references to Sanaa as a city date back nearly 2,000 years. Many sections of the seven-gated city wall, once wide enough to take a donkey and cart, have crumbled.

But the city centre, with its noisy market stalls set in a maze of winding alleys, has changed little since North Yemen was opened to the outside world after the 1962 revolution ousted the monarchy.

Haddad said the departure of home and business owners from the old city had affected buildings because their successors were mainly from rural areas and "cannot be expected to understand the importance of restoration and cleanliness."

Many Yemenis say the 1962 revolution has eroded the life-style of the old city. Most

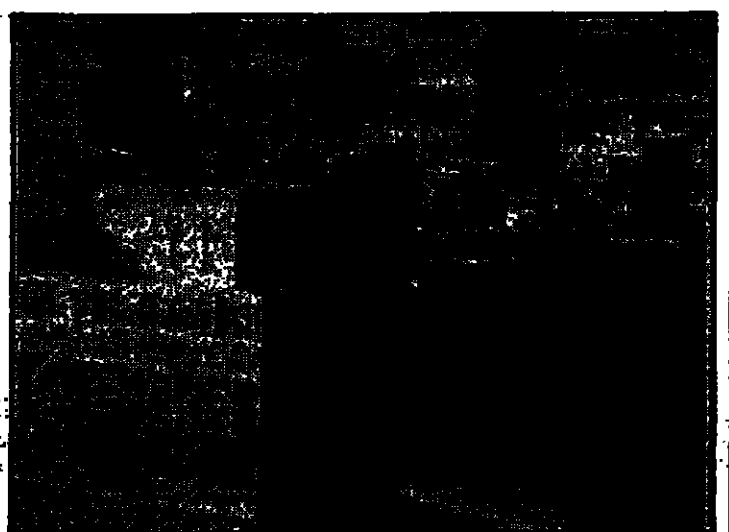
young people now want to leave, family homes when they marry and move to newer houses outside its limits.

Haddad said the preservation plan envisaged improved integrated social and economic facilities which would keep the old city alive. "Conservation ... and the maintenance of cultural heritage has to make economic sense," he added.

He said the entire plan would take until the end of the century to complete.

North Yemen's government has pledged to raise a third of the cost, while Haddad is optimistic that Yemenis and home owners will contribute another third.

"There is a feeling among the people that this is important ... they have responded positively to our campaign," he said. "We feel it could soon be off the ground."



Sanaa's old city with its richly-decorated 1,000-year-old buildings, is a jewel in the Arab heritage. UNESCO plans to save North Yemen's walled capital city have made little progress for lack of funds.

Sri Lankans advertise for a spouse

By Mariya Odchimar
Reuter

COLOMBO — Arranged marriages are making a comeback in Sri Lanka as more and more parents, having bypassed traditional marriage brokers, use classified advertisements to find suitable life partners for their children.

Each Sunday, the classified pages of Sri Lanka's major newspapers are packed with advertisements for husbands and wives.

Marriage brokers, once instantly recognisable by their black hats and umbrellas tucked under their arms, used to be seen all over this Indian Ocean island but they are now almost extinct.

Ten years ago love marriages overtook arranged marriages, partly because parents grew tired of paying fees to marriage brokers and giving them confidential information about their children and families.

But as newspaper space for marriage advertisements has expanded, arranged unions have regained their former popularity.

"Marriage proposals advertised through papers are like proposals for arranged marriages themselves. Despite love marriages coming into the scene, people have not shaken off their belief in arranged marriages," T.M. Dole, the advertising manager of the English language Sunday Observer and the Sinhalese language Silumina, told

Reuters. The Sunday Observer and the Silumina carry more advertisements than any other newspapers. Each Sunday about 135 proposals are placed in the Observer and about 150 in the Silumina.

"We started with three columns in 1980, five years ago we went to five columns and we plan to go to a full page by early next year," Dole said.

The chances of finding a catch depend very much on what you say about yourself.

If you are a woman advertising for a partner you must state your dowry and other financial assets. The more, the better. If you're a prospective bridegroom, a rough idea of your salary and occupation will do.

"If a dowry is big, say about 500,000 rupees (\$17,600) a woman might get at least 25 letters after one week," Dole said.

Women also usually state whether they have a house, cash, jewellery and fair skin — which men often favour.

A man stating a monthly salary of 15,000 rupees (\$530) in a country where 1,000 (\$35) is the average will get instant responses. Some men now prefer a wife with a regular job rather than one with a dowry.

Officials at the Job Bank, a state body matching job seekers with clerical vacancies in government, said more women applied at their office this year because they realised men liked working wives.

Inflation has leapt to seven per cent this year from 1.5 per cent last year mainly because the war being waged against Tamil guerrillas is draining the country's coffers.

But although prospects of financial stability are important in such an economic environment, it is the stars which often have the final word in sealing a marriage.

Two typical marriage advertisements recently read: "Govigama Catholic mother seeks a partner, professional or businessman, for convent educated English speaking pleasant daughter age 28, 5'3". Returned from Europe having

two lakhs, fixed deposits monthly interest 3,000 rupees. Foreign account for \$7,500, substantial jewellery. Karawe considered. Homosexual essential."

(Govigama is the highest of six major castes which include Karawe. One lakh is about \$3,500.)

And: "Well connected Karawe Buddhist parents, father pensioner, seek for their son, 28 years, 5'5", engineer, teetotaler, non-smoker, employed in a government organisation, a fair, pleasant educated partner with similar status and reasonable dowry. Reply with full details together with copy of horoscope."

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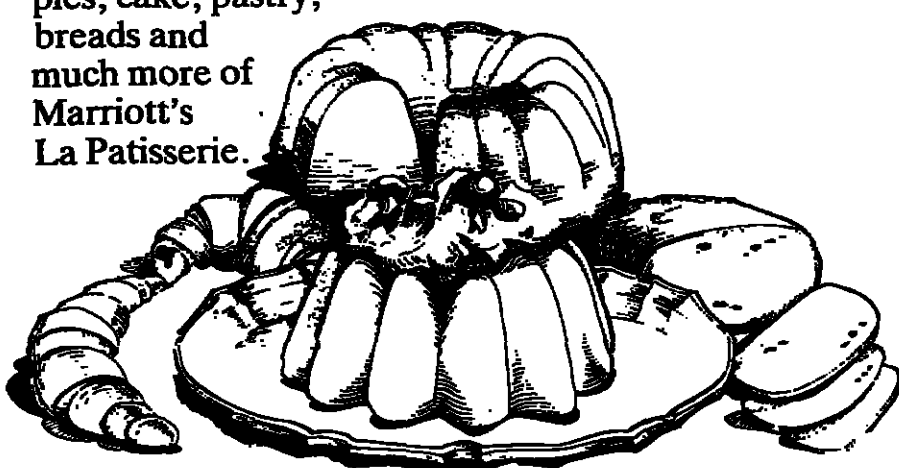
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Arsenal stretches unbeaten streak

LONDON (R) — English League leader Arsenal is clearly intent on making manager George Graham eat humble pie after stretching its unbeaten run to 15 games with a 3-0 win over Luton Saturday.

Early in the season Graham was adamant that his squad was not strong enough to mount a serious title challenge. Since then the London club has picked up 32 points out of a possible 36.

Three goals in the final 20 minutes from Niall Quinn, Tony Adams and Martin Hayes, his 12th of the season, ensured that Arsenal would celebrate its centenary on Christmas Day with a healthy five-point lead in the First Division.

While Arsenal continued to relish life at the top, its nearest challenger Nottingham Forest and defending champion Liverpool laboured to goalless draws.

Forest, the First Division's leading scorers, was unable to breach a Southampton defence

which had conceded 39 goals in 18 league outings, and Liverpool, missing several key players and its usual fluid approach, failed to get the better of Charlton even though the London side was reduced to 10 men for the last half hour when substitute Robert Lee limped off with an ankle injury.

Forest was fortunate to keep its unbeaten home record intact. During a hectic five-minute period in the second half Danny Wallace had a shot brilliantly saved and Colin Clarke, Southampton's top scorer, drove a shot against the post.

Both Liverpool and Forest could have done with the services of Tottenham's prolific marksman Clive Allen.

He took his tally for the season

to 24 with both goals in his side's 2-0 win over bottom club Chelsea, who has not won in its last nine league appearances.

Everton, beset by injuries during the first three months of the season, continues to look one of the teams best equipped to deny Arsenal its first league title since 1971.

It swept aside Wimbledon's challenge, winning 3-0 with goals by Trevor Steven, Kevin Sheedy and Adrian Heath.

Quinn, with his fifth goal in seven games, ended Luton's stout resistance at Highbury when he climbed well to head into the bottom corner of the net.

Another Quinn header set up Arsenal's second eight minutes from time. His goalbound header came back off the underside of the bar and centre half Adams bundled the ball home.

Hayes completed Luton's misery two minutes from time

when his speculative shot was fumbled into the net by goalkeeper Les Sealey.

Frank Stapleton, a former darling of the Highbury fans, helped Manchester United to inch itself further away from the basement of the table by scoring within a minute of substituting for debutant Liam O'Brien midway through the second half against Leicester.

United's other marksman in its 2-0 win was Colin Gibson, who was making his first league appearance since August.

In Scotland, Celtic had its lead in the Premier League cut to four points when it was held to a 1-1 home draw by Aberdeen.

Alan McNally gave Celtic the ideal start with a goal in the second minute, but the champion flattered only to deceive and Aberdeen's Joe Miller made amends for fluffing a 14th minute penalty by equalising.

Jordan Premier League Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Faisali	16	9	5	2	27	10	23
Al Duffaiein	16	9	4	3	30	10	22
Al Ahli	16	7	5	4	22	16	19
Al Ramtha	16	4	10	2	15	15	18
Al Hussein	16	6	5	5	20	18	17
Al Jazira	16	6	4	6	19	17	16
Amman	16	5	3	8	17	21	13
Al Qadesia	16	4	5	7	11	19	13
Al Quozazi	16	3	6	7	10	17	12
Al Nasr	16	1	5	10	5	33	7

Becker, Graf turn West Germans tennis-crazy

By Paul Radford
Reuter

BONN — The seemingly irresistible rise of teenagers Boris Becker and Steffi Graf towards their avowed goal of becoming the world's top men's and women's players has turned West Germany tennis-crazy in just 18 months.

Becker, 19, and Graf, 17, who both enjoyed almost boundless success in 1986, were crowned West German sportsman and sportswoman of the year Wednesday night.

It was fitting that the ceremony should take place live on television because the two "wunderkinder" have made tennis as popular on the small screen as soccer, previously

unchallenged as the national sport.

Last year, when Becker won his first Wimbledon title, television channels showed more hours of tennis than of soccer for the first time.

West Germany cities now vying with each other to stage new tournaments, existing events are being upgraded with big injections of prize money and a rash of exhibition matches has broken out as promoters try to satisfy the thirst for tennis.

This year Becker captured his second Wimbledon singles title, rose to number two in the world rankings and won nine tournaments, including six Grands Prix.

Graf won eight tournaments and lost just six matches in the whole year as she rose to number three on the women's computer list. Her picture and Becker's have appeared on the front cover of almost every major West German magazine.

Both seem destined to reach the top of the tennis tree before too long. Only Ivan Lendl stands in front of Becker and it looks like just a matter of time before the Czechoslovak is knocked off his perch.

Becker handed Lendl three of his six defeats in the year, one of them in the Wimbledon final, but the Czechoslovak showed there is

Nottingham Forest VP Atkins visits Jordan, proposes ban on alcohol to curb fan violence

By Fred Donovan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mr. Gerald Atkins, the vice president of Nottingham Forest soccer club, is visiting the Middle East to arrange for matches between his club and clubs in the region. After a visit to Saudi Arabia last week, Mr. Atkins is stopping in Jordan, and plans to visit Egypt Sunday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Atkins discussed the issue of fan violence, a pressing issue in England. "I think it is primarily a problem with alcohol. The combination of alcohol and the excitement of football matches is not a good mix," he said.

He related an experience he had in Paris over a decade ago. Leeds was playing in Paris, and some Leeds fans were behaving "disgracefully." "I went over to talk with them and found they were intoxicated," stated Mr. Atkins.

As a remedy, Mr. Atkins proposes the banning of alcohol from all soccer matches. "If we stop alcohol from being available at football matches in England and Europe, we will have more stability," he said.

England was banned from European competition as a result of hooliganism by Liverpool fans which resulted in the death of 39 Juventus fans at the European Cup final in Brussels in 1985. On the banning, Mr. Atkins states



Mr. Gerald Atkins, vice-president of Nottingham Forest, stops at Al Ra'i newspaper on his tour of Jordan and the Middle East. From left to right, Dr. Bassam Harroum, coach of Al Jazira club, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Toukan, who is escorting Mr. Atkins on his tour, and Mr. Nazmi Al Said, head of the Al Ra'i sports department.

that he could understand the reasoning behind it. "Since there was the death of those people involved, something had to be done," he asserted.

But, he cautions against thinking that English fans are trouble-makers. "When you look at all the teams playing in England, and the number of matches, and then you look at the violence, it is minute," he asserted. "We tend to take this violence out of context."

Mr. Atkins said that he did not believe the remedy instituted by Luton to be the solution. To curb

stand violence, Luton began a membership card system. "I can go to a Luton game because I am vice-president of Nottingham Forest, but if most people want to go to a Luton game, they can't. That is not a way to have good sport," he concluded.

Nottingham Forest's solution is to stagger the exit times for the home and visiting fans, to have video cameras, and to have civil police patrol the stadium. "We ask the visiting fans to wait 5 minutes while the home fans have a chance to exit," explained Mr. Atkins. Also trouble-makers are

photographed. Then, their picture is circulated to the turnstiles, and they will be refused admission to subsequent matches," he said.

If serious problems arise, the offending people are arrested, according to him. Other clubs use similar measure to discourage violence.

In a survey conducted by the English Football League, it was found that there was more fan violence in the 1930s and 1940s than at present, Mr. Atkins related. The survey looked at reports of fan violence in the press during that period and at present.

Mr. Atkins agreed with a proposal recently made by the International Football Federation (FIFA) to ban fans from terraces. This proposal would prohibit fans from gathering on terraces throughout stadiums in Europe.

"This would be more conducive to better behaviour," he stated. "It is much easier to control fans if they are in assigned seats."

Mr. Atkins stressed that the problem of fan violence is not a widespread phenomenon in Britain. It is the result of a "few mindless people who want to make trouble."

"I can take my daughter to any football match, and have no fear," stated Mr. Atkins as he glanced at his young daughter who is accompanying him and his wife on his tour of the Middle East. He then added, "as long as I do not go looking for trouble."

Indian sports officials criticise government ban

NEW DELHI (R) — Top Indian sports officials blamed India's poor performance in recent international events on government policies and the alleged use of drugs by Indian athletes.

The officials were reacting to recently published but unconfirmed reports that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had banned Indian national teams from competing in international meetings apparently because of India's embarrassing showing at the Asian Games in October.

"We were informed verbally a few days ago that a blanket ban on Indian teams for foreign competitions was ordered by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's secretary," Indian Olympic Committee (IOC) Chief Vidya Charan Shukla told Reuters Friday.

He described Indian government's sports policies as illogical and said he wondered why the restrictions apparently applied to athletes from all disciplines.

Indian minister of state for

sports, Margaret Alva, was not available for comment on any of the charges.

India fielded one of the largest contingents at the Asian Games in Seoul but won only five gold medals, three of them to women's track star P.T. Usha who helped a relay team win the fourth.

The lacklustre performance embarrassed Indians and led to widespread criticism of government sports policies.

A senior sports official, who did not want to be named, said selections for national teams were often made on the basis of hand timings and some athletes took drugs banned by international sports bodies to boost performances at the trials.

"Of course our male throwers take anabolic steroids and one person threw the putt 19 metres at the trials and then struggled to reach 17 metres at Seoul," the official said.

The official said India could be embarrassed at an important international meeting if it did not check the growing use of drugs among the sportsmen and women.

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To the Marriott Hotel and to all the foreign embassies, communities, and individuals whose enthusiastic support and generous donations helped make our last annual bazaar on Dec. 17 a great success.

Al-Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION STAGE II ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER AVAILABILITY

SWITCHYARD ISLAND TENDER NO. 54/86

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Switchyard Island Tender Document, No. 54/86, for the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, Stage II is available for purchase as of 22 December 1986.

The Tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of 400/132/33 kV GIS Switchgear with related Switchyard auxiliaries. The Switchyard Island Contract will be financed from part of the World Bank's loan which is expected to be assigned for the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant, Stage II. Subsequently, only TENDERERS from World Bank Countries in addition to Switzerland and Taiwan, China are invited to participate in this Tender.

Sealed Tenders shall be submitted to the Tendering Committee before 10.00 a.m. Amman Time, 31 March, 1987 at the JEA Offices in Amman accompanied by a security bond of 67,700 JD (sixty seven thousand seven hundred Jordanian Dinars).

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10.00 a.m., Amman local time on March 31st at the Offices of JEA. Tender Documents are available from the address given below for a nonrefundable fee of JD 250 payable to JEA for each set consisting of two copies of the Tender Documents.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Post Office Box 2310
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هكذا صنع الاصل

Camdessus values strategy of growth

PARIS (Agencies) — The newly elected managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr. Michel Camdessus of France, said Friday economic growth was vital for a solution of the international debt crisis.

Speaking to reporters for the first time since his election, Mr. Camdessus praised a debt initiative launched by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in September 1985.

The Baker plan, which sought to ease the debt crisis in less developed countries, called on commercial banks to make \$20 billion in new loans over a three-year period. It also recommended a \$9 billion increase in loans from such multilateral organizations as the World Bank.

Mr. Camdessus said: "A strong perception has been progressively established that the only way out of the debt problem is through growth."

But sound adjustment policies by debtor governments, also stressed by Mr. Baker, were equally important, he added. "As a central bank governor I do not joke with the principles of sound management. Adjustment is equally necessary."

Mr. Camdessus said the IMF could play a key role in encouraging the adjustment process. "A good adjustment programme, oriented to growth, should open a dialogue between the fund, which is rich with

experience, and the country concerned," he added.

Creditors and debtors countries had an equal interest in working together to solve international debt problems. "Where there is a debt there is a debtor, and also a creditor, and they are both in the same boat," he said.

The Baker initiative had the great merit of making clear to commercial banks that they could not escape their risk exposure by trying to pull out from the developing countries, he added.

McNamara to join World Bank reorganization team

Meanwhile, Mr. Robert S. McNamara, who headed the World Bank for 13 years, will join a group that will help reorganize it, World Bank President Barber Conable announced Friday.

Mr. McNamara was U.S. secretary of defense under former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He left the bank in 1981.

The World Bank, owned by 151 governments, is the biggest international source of aid for poor countries, making loans of more than \$16 billion a year.

Mr. Conable said in a statement that a steering committee will be headed by Mr. Edward V.K. Jaycox, an American who is the bank's vice president for eastern and southern Africa.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 13, '86 and ending Wednesday, Dec. 17, '86. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	800	1110	1.360	1.380	1.000
Petra Bank	11288	28371	2.520	2.420	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	4043	8901	2.180	2.220	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	21575	41699	1.890	1.910	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	21824	30860	1.380	1.350	1.000
Housing Bank	4300	7452	1.720	1.730	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	4610	10044	2.160	2.170	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	26859	778911	29.000	29.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	341	5738	17.600	16.700	5.000
Arab Bank	610	81829	135.750	133.750	10.000
Jordan National Bank	216750	605222	2.780	2.720	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	43625	30982	0.720	0.710	1.000
Islamic Investment House	65421	56898	1.340	1.400	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	167960	67335	0.880	0.880	1.000
Finances and Credit Corporation	6731	9124	1.380	1.350	1.000
National Financial Investments	27237	17090	0.590	0.630	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	22392	23260	1.030	0.980	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Bank of Jordan (New Issue)	8637	139915	16.630	16.000	5.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	17414	53358	3.100	3.070	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	1000	850	0.880	0.850	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1825	19379	10.500	11.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	12175	10863	0.850	0.930	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1500	1500	1.000	1.000	1.000
Arabian Sea Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	300	408	1.360	1.360	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	7525	6063	0.800	0.780	1.000
Universal Insurance	6400	4160	0.690	0.650	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Ishar Insurance	100	85	0.700	0.850	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	63775	39294	0.620	0.610	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaroo)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Management and Consultancy	1000	250	0.440	0.500	1.000
Arab Development and Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	1617	1115	0.710	0.690	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	4057	730	0.680	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	9200	4168	0.940	0.940	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	21181	38276	1.580	1.590	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	225	230	1.010	1.020	1.000
Arab International Hotels	40705	17503	0.430	0.430	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Association Office	450	2284	5.000	5.150	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	26205	24774	0.930	0.940	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	235	78	0.340	0.330	1.000
Jordan Dairy	42798	53092	1.240	1.230	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	26278	55999	2.180	2.140	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	378255	311017	0.780	0.780	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	313	783	2.500	2.500	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	14750	22857	1.550	1.480	1.000
Alchemical Detergent Industries	3092	14572	4.650	4.800	1.000
Aladin Industries	141450	128883	0.890	0.890	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	393934	462212	1.080	1.170	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	250	1113	4.350	4.450	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	20550	21448	1.040	1.040	1.000
Chemical Industries	23991	25846	1.070	1.060	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	3100	1410	0.470	0.450	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	7202	10410	1.450	1.430	1.000
National Steel Industries	295986	606986	1.520	2.030	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	25960	20481	0.760	0.790	1.000
General Mining	5213	9630	1.850	1.800	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	5142	37455	7.250	7.250	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	19220	3371	0.200	0.180	1.000
National Industries	48425	40398	0.850	0.780	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	1000	250	0.250	0.250	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	25867	34818	1.300	1.340	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1150	3043	2.690	2.600	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	19550	8337	0.310	0.420	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Minerals	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1819	3220	1.770	1.770	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Brewery	300	1095	3.300	3.650	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	56182	46810	0.790	0.830	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	34860	28428	0.770	0.840	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	8600	5735	0.600	0.590	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	100	61	0.590	0.610	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	29490	33347	1.400	1.400	1.000
Grand total	2,508,641	4,162,673			

OPEC agreement opens new era for oil exporters

GENEVA (AP) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) declared a majority agreement Saturday to cut its oil production and raise prices to an average of \$18 a barrel.

Oil prices on the open market, currently in a range of \$13 to \$16 a barrel, were expected to jump in reaction to the accord, said analyst Bryan Jacobson, who was observing the OPEC meeting for the investment firm of PaineWebber Inc.

Iraq weakened the deal by refusing to sign it, saying it could accept no accord that kept its oil output below that of its war enemy, Iran.

Iraq also did not agree to raise prices to \$18 a barrel.

The accord, announced after an all-night bargaining session that ended 10 days of meetings, marked an important change in the group's strategy for eventually regaining control of the oil market.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said the agreement would "put a stop to the price war forever" — a reference to OPEC's historic decision a year ago to increase its oil production in an attempt to win a bigger share of the world market.

Mr. Rikwanu Lukman, president of OPEC and the chief Nigerian delegate, said 12 of the 13 members agreed to cut their production for six months starting Jan. 1.

OPEC's production target would be 15.8 million barrels a day, although Iraq's refusal to accept the deal meant the group's actual production was likely to be about 16 million barrels daily, Mr. Lukman said.

Iraq was assigned a theoretical quota of 1.466 million barrels a day, but it has said it plans to continue pumping at its current level of 1.7 million barrels daily, or even higher.

OPEC as a whole currently is pumping about 17 million barrels a day.

The majority agreement also called for a return to a unified system of fixed OPEC oil prices.

That means all members — except Iraq — would be obliged, as of Feb. 1, not to sell their oil for less than an OPEC-decided rate. The prices are to range from \$16.27 a barrel to \$18.57 a barrel depending on the quality of the grade of oil.

The average price is to be \$18 a barrel.

The last time OPEC had a system of fixed oil prices, in 1985, it was based on an average of \$28 a barrel.

One of the keys to OPEC's ability to reach an agreement was the new willingness of its biggest producer, Saudi Arabia, to cut its oil output. Under terms of the accord, Saudi production is to fall by five per cent, to a maximum of 4.133 million barrels a day.

The Saudi acceptance of a production cut amounted to confirmation that King Fahd's firing in October of long-serving oil minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani signalled a fundamental change in

Saudi oil policy.

Sheikh Yamani had championed an OPEC strategy of defending the group's share of the oil market rather than protecting a fixed price by cutting production.

Sheikh Hisham Nazari, who was attending his first OPEC meeting as head of the Saudi delegation, made no public comments after the conference.

Although Iraq won its fight to remain outside the new OPEC agreement, its exclusion is almost certain to cause the group trouble in the near future.

Mr. Aghazadeh told reporters "it was understood at very high levels" that Saudi Arabia would try to persuade Iraq — for whom it provides financial support in the Gulf war — to accept the terms of the accord within 30 days.

Mr. Aghazadeh suggested that if the Saudis failed, Iran might seek a suspension of Iraq's OPEC membership.

Oteiba praises accord

Commenting on the agreement, Dr. Mana Saeed Oteiba, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, was quoted Saturday as saying prices could rise to \$20 a barrel.

"This agreement might raise oil prices to \$20 per barrel in the next few days," Dr. Oteiba told Abu Dhabi's semi-official newspaper Al Itihad.

Dr. Oteiba described the agreement as "the new year present for OPEC nations and the world." He said it will put OPEC on "the right track" for the first time in several months.

"Raising oil prices will lead to the stability of the oil market and meet the needs and interests of both oil exporters and importers," he said.

According to Al Itihad, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, OPEC's leading member state and the world's largest oil exporter, was instrumental in pushing through the accord.

It said King Fahd sent a message to the conference Thursday urging production cutbacks.

Al Itihad said the average production for 1987 would be 16.6 million barrels per day. It said the agreement provides for an output of 16.6 million barrels per day in the third quarter of the year and 18.3 million barrels per day in the final quarter.

It also gave the daily oil production quotas for member states in the first half of next year as follows:

- UAE 900,000 barrels;
- Algeria 635,000 barrels;
- Ecuador 210,000 barrels;
- Gabon 152,000 barrels;
- Indonesia 1.133 million barrels;
- Iran 2.255 million barrels;
- Iraq 1.466 million barrels;
- Kuwait 948,000 barrels;

- Libya 948,000 barrels;
- Nigeria 1.238 million barrels;
- Qatar 285,000 barrels;
- Saudi Arabia 4.133 million barrels and
- Venezuela 1.495 million barrels.

Al Itihad said a technical committee discussed a pricing system according to the density of crude and decided on the following prices per barrel:

- Arabian heavy \$16.26.
- Nigerian light \$18.91.
- Algerian \$18.91.
- Indonesian \$17.16.
- Arabian light \$17.51.
- Dubai crude \$17.41.
- Mexican \$18.01.

The seven grades were amalgamated in a basket designed to produce the targeted \$18 per barrel. Abu Dhabi oil, though not selected for the basket, would sell for \$17.90 per barrel.

Iraqi Oil Minister Qasem Taqi, was quoted by Al Itihad as saying the agreement was a "victory" for his country because Iran failed to convince the other members to condemn Baghdad's position.

He reiterated that Iraq rejected the quota OPEC allocated for Iraq and insisted that his country should be allowed to produce as much as Iran does.

Mexico, Norway ready to cooperate

In Mexico City, the energy ministers of Norway and Mexico said they are willing to cooperate with OPEC producers to achieve price stability in the international market.

"If stability of prices in OPEC is achieved, and if that organization diminishes the volume of petroleum production among its member countries, that is what would lead Mexico to obtain a recovery of \$2 in the sale price of a barrel," Mexican Energy and Mines Secretary Alfredo Del Mazo said at a joint news conference Friday.

Norwegian Energy Minister Arne Oelen said he agreed with Mr. Del Mazo's view and would be willing to support effective measures by OPEC.

But both stayed clear of any specific pledges of action.

Gulf Air cuts staff

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Air, hit by a downturn in Middle East economies, has dismissed 50 clerical staff in Bahrain to cut costs, company officials said Saturday.

The move was taken under a rationalization programme as studies showed that the company was over-staffed, they said.

Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, saw 1985 profits slip to 13.37 million Bahraini dinars (\$36.42 million) from 19.9 million (\$50.89) in 1984.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day is fine for contacting those who can be helpful to you. It is important that you do not become involved in discussions or arguments over details.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can get creative ideas across during the daytime, but later don't go off on any silly tangents.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make the right arrangements at home that are vital to your welfare. Don't neglect good friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can garner the data you need with relative ease. Avoid an irritable partner. Have a nice quiet evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You know how to make your property more valuable, so carry through with your ideas.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get an early start on pleasurable activities and put aside work you do not like. Be with your best friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Have a delightful day with the one you love. Don't be disappointed and spoil your judgment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Being with fine friends can make this a happy day for you and them. Avoid trouble in the evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Get out to the world and improve your position with persons who count. Go after a favor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You want to go off in new directions now. Don't get into any outside arguments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Follow your hunches and you get the right picture for the days ahead. Romantic life can be fine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your home and improve things so they are more as you desire. Await a better day to gain aims.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get your abode more as you want it to be. Wrap Christmas gifts nicely now and hide them well.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will comprehend whatever has to do with policies, principles, and precepts. It's wise for you to explain the motives behind any undertakings or orders. This will balance the troublesome nature in your child. Much success can come during this life.

THE Daily Crossword

by Roger Coburn

ACROSS

- 1 Reports
- 2 Tobacco
- 3 Medicinal amount
- 4 "It" — necessary
- 5 "It" — necessary
- 6 "It" — necessary
- 7 Horse color
- 8 Young hooper
- 9 In a hurry
- 10 Fleety
- 11 Kindled again
- 12 Fleet
- 13 Chief
- 14 Patterns
- 15 Viper
- 16 Headline
- 17 Body
- 18 Get red
- 19 — Angeles
- 20 Tel
- 21 Reynolds
- 22 Former Dodge manager
- 23 Father of TV
- 24 Set up
- 25 Grandiose
- 26 poetry
- 27 Approaches
- 28 Sea engine
- 29 Phosphate
- 30 Peeler
- 31 Domestic work
- 32 Cold cuts
- 33 store
- 34

Aquino thanks military for support; urges preparedness

CAMP AQUINO, Philippines (AP) — President Corason Aquino thanked the military Saturday for supporting her peace efforts but called for a "keen preparedness for war" in case upcoming peace talks with Communist rebels fail.

Mrs. Aquino told soldiers at an army camp in her home province of Tarlac, 104 kilometres north west of Manila, that she was counting on a reformed and strengthened armed forces for the success of negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF).

A 60-day ceasefire went into effect on Dec. 10 in preparation for more substantial negotiations to end the nearly 18-year-old Communist insurgency. The two sides are to meet next Tuesday to draw up an agenda for the talks.

Mrs. Aquino travelled to Tarlac to award medals to soldiers at Camp Aquino, named after an ancestor of her husband, former Sen. Benigno Aquino, whose assassination in 1983 contributed to last February's "people power" revolt that swept the widow to power.

"Courage, loyalty, a democratic faith, an unflinching vigilance for the rights, liberties and safety of our people, an earnest desire for peace and a keen preparedness for war — these virtues will stand us in good stead in the weeks and months ahead," Mrs. Aquino said in her speech.

She also praised the military for "sharing my patience under provocation."

It was not clear if she was referring to continued attacks on government posts during the ceasefire negotiations or to charges by the military that the rebels had violated the truce more than a dozen times since it went

into effect. "With unquestioned strength and the rightness of our cause... success can only crown our efforts and no small measure of the credit and honour will go to the armed forces when an honourable and enduring peace finally reigns in our land," she added.

She thanked military leaders for assuring her that although undrawn for the moment, the "sword of war" would remain "sharp and shining... to protect democracy against its natural enemies."

Meanwhile, in a speech read for him by a proxy Saturday, Defence Minister Rafael Ileta renewed allegations of truce violations by the rebels but said the military remained committed to a negotiated political settlement.

"Acquiring peace is still a trying task as there have been flagrant violations of the ceasefire by elements of the New People's Army (NPA)," said Gen. Ileta in the text of his speech. "But indeed," he added, "the ceasefire is something new for many of us and requires nothing less than the sincerity and patience of the parties involved."

The alleged violations have been brought to the attention of the National Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, which includes representatives of both sides, but the panel has not made any ruling.

Rebel negotiators Satur Ocampo and Antonio Zamel have

accused the military of endangering the peace talks by making unsubstantiated charges.

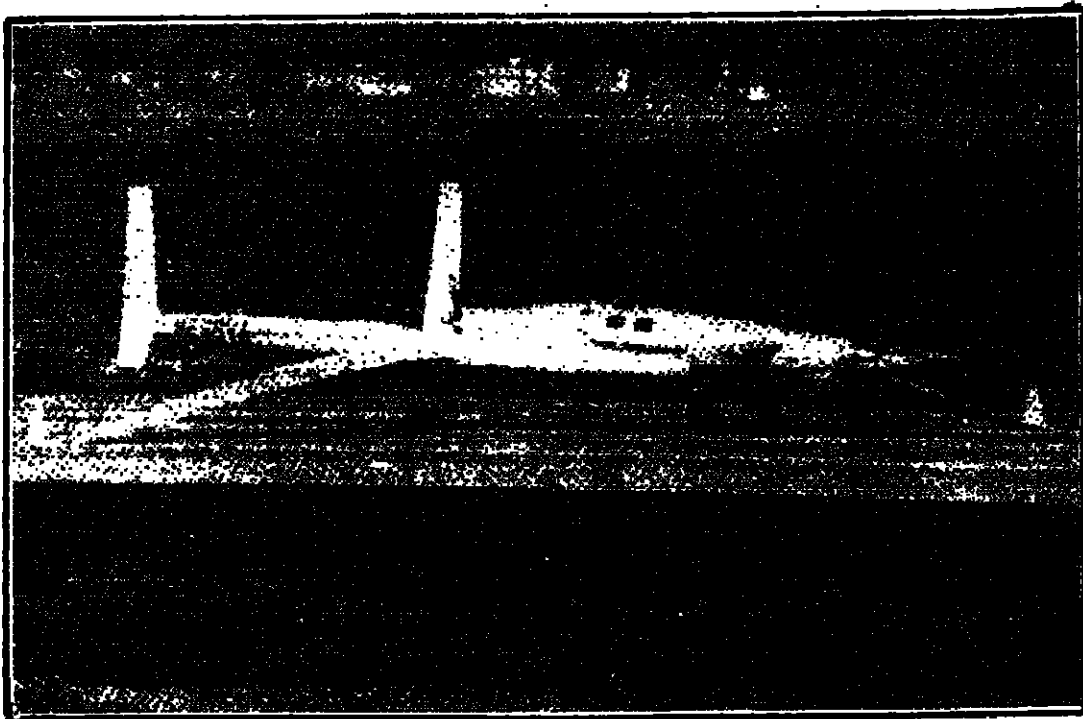
In a speech Friday to church and business leaders, Mr. Ocampo said the government had offered only "palliatives... not the cure" for the insurgency and warned that the prospects for peace would be dim if the government stuck to its "narrow" view.

Mr. Ocampo was referring to a statement by government negotiator Teodoro Guingona that the Aquino administration would offer economic and social concessions such as rural development and "amnesty with honour" for rebels who lay down their arms. Mr. Guingona made no mention of fundamental political questions.

The rebel negotiator outlined a 10-point rebel agenda, including termination of "unequal treaties" with the United States, which has military bases in the country, "genuine" land reform, creation of a "pro-people armed forces" and establishment of a "nationalist and popular government."

In another development, about 1,000 members of the militant leftist labour federation May 1st Movement gathered Saturday in a government auditorium in Manila for a two-day convention to elect a new chairman to replace Rolando Olalia, who was murdered last month.

Among the personalities who attended the opening ceremonies were Mr. Zamel and outgoing Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez, whom Mrs. Aquino has announced she will replace at the end of the month. The military as well as business leaders had asked for Mr. Sanchez' removal.



The Voyager 2 drags its wing tips during takeoff last Sunday in an attempt to set a record by circling the earth non-stop without refuelling.

Voyager heads home across Atlantic

MOJAVE, California (AP) — Voyager headed homeward across the Atlantic Saturday, its crew a little bruised from being jostled by turbulence in the quest to circle the globe without stopping or refuelling.

Voyager left Africa's turbulent skies Friday carrying what its ground crew believed was plenty of fuel for the final third stretch of the 40,152 kilometre journey, which could be completed as early as Tuesday morning.

"I personally feel he'll be back here on time or early and with gobs of gas," said Voyager designer Burt Rutan.

Pilots Dick Rutan, the designer's brother, and Jeana Yeager had to don oxygen masks

as Voyager climbed to 6,000 metres to clear mountain ranges and fierce storms over Africa.

The experimental airplane cleared Africa's west coast around 0000 GMT Saturday, project spokesman Peter Riva said at Voyager headquarters.

A report posted in the Voyager hangar Friday noted that the crew's status was "excellent, except for sores from turbulence impact with cabin roof and floor."

Dr. George Jutila, the flight surgeon, said his fears about some permanent loss of hearing for the pilots had been allayed slightly after learning early Friday that an electronic device was working better than he had thought in suppressing engine noise.

However, Dr. Jutila said he still believes the pair could suffer some loss in hearing.

"Dick and Jeana had both accepted this as a risk. They also knew they were going to come back black and blue. They accepted that," Dr. Jutila said.

At 0030 GMT Saturday, the ground crew reported Voyager had covered 26,000 kilometres and was 14,704 kilometres from Edwards Air Force Base, California, where it took off Sunday.

Voyager began the ocean crossing after its designer and technical staff concluded the airplane had as much as 500 kilograms more fuel aboard than logs of fuel usage showed.

Student protesters block Shanghai

SHANGHAI (R) — Thousands of students calling for democracy took to the streets Saturday after an overnight sit-in protest outside City Hall in the most daring display so far of the unrest sweeping campuses across China.

Traffic ground to a halt outside City Hall and in the main shopping street as banner-waving students marched arm-in-arm through the eastern port city after claiming that some of their leaders had been beaten up by police.

Witnesses said up to 20,000 people took part in the march through the city centre. They were watched by enthusiastic bystanders, some of whom perched in the branches of trees tossing food and cigarettes to the students.

Students from Shanghai's Tongji University told Reuters that up to 3,000 had camped

outside City Hall night while their representatives held eight hours of talks with Mayor Jiang Zemin, lasting until three a.m. Saturday (1900 GMT Friday).

They took to the streets again early this afternoon after a student leader announced by megaphone that the mayor had asked for more time to consider four demands. The request was seen by the students as pointing to their rejection.

The students said they had asked for more democracy, greater press freedom, recognition of the student protests as legal and official guarantees of their personal safety.

Many students told Reuters that at least three of their number were beaten up by police about 6 a.m. Saturday (2200 GMT Friday) after they ignored loudspeaker requests to end their sit-in outside

the palatial City Hall building. Some said police videotaped the demonstration on the city's historic riverside Bund Boulevard.

No further violence had been reported by late afternoon Saturday, the third consecutive day of street protests in Shanghai.

Some students said the unrest in Shanghai was triggered when police beat up a student who tried to go near the stage at a pop concert by an American group here about a week ago.

A group of students chanting pro-democracy slogans held high a banner declaring "police suppress and beat students — Where is justice?"

"It's just like the Cultural Revolution," an old woman said as she watched protest organisers stand arm-in-arm to marshal the crowds.

72 Chinese die in November accidents

PEKING (AP) — A privately owned ferry capsized on a river in southern China last month, and 54 of the 91 people aboard drowned, the China Daily reported Saturday.

The report said the accident occurred on the Beipan River in Guizhou province on Nov. 16. It was blamed on overcrowding.

On the same day, nine drowned in a similar ferry accident in neighbouring Yunnan province, the newspaper said. Nine others died in two separate boating accidents the same week in Hunan and Guizhou provinces, it said.

No explanation was given for the delay in reporting the accidents.

The Ministry of Transport has urged local river traffic authorities to tighten management of rural passenger boats, particularly ferries driven by private owners, because of the sharp rise in boat accidents this year, China Daily said.

Pentagon wants space station for SDI research

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defence Department has decided it may want to use the \$8 billion space station for "Star Wars" research, a policy reversal likely to upset the European, Japanese and Canadian partners in the project.

In soliciting participation by other countries in the station the last two years, U.S. space agency and State Department officials have played down military uses and stressed its operation as a research laboratory for government and industry. In congressional hearings, Defence Department witnesses have disavowed any interest in using the station.

Now that seems to have changed. The Pentagon is drawing up an "update of our space policy" that Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger plans to issue soon, said a Defence Department official who asked not to be identified.

"The space station we are talking about is a system that is going to be in space functioning for 30-odd years, probably more," he said. "It is out of the question that during that period of time, important national security functions, both in defence and intelligence, might find a use for such a national asset."

Aviation Week and Space Technology, the industry magazine, says in its Dec. 22 issue that the next round of station negotiations with international partners will be postponed "until the U.S. can develop a new negotiating position to ensure that Defence Department participation cannot be vetoed by Europe, Japan or Canada once the facility is operational."

The magazine said senior officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) believe

the move "will result in an angry response from the international partners who have based their participation on a totally civilian station operation."

The Defence Department official said he is not aware of any response from the Europeans, who planned to add a \$2 billion facility to the station, or the Japanese, who had talked about a \$1 billion module, or from the Canadians.

"It's been something that has unfolded in the last couple of weeks," the official said. "They have to decide whether to participate and on what basis."

Another official said the air force "never said we are not interested at all in the space station. We intend to preserve the United States options to use the space station throughout its life in ways supportive of our national security interests across the board. It means economic, competitive defence-related activities. It doesn't mean we are going to put weapons on space stations. Nobody has such plans."

The air force official, who also asked not to be named, said other countries might have mistaken a policy of restricting space ventures to "peaceful purposes" as meaning non-military.

"We will limit our use of outer space for peaceful purposes," he said. "Our philosophy is that anything the United States does, including the Department of Defence, is in the name of peace. It's not appropriate to say that SDI is not for peaceful purposes and therefore should not be done in outer space."

A State Department official, who also asked not to be named, said negotiators had made it clear from the beginning that the military might make use of the station "but not formally on the record."

He said the new policy will be

issued because "the Department of Defence is looking for something more formal... they are trying to make this option more clear to our partners."

Aviation Week said the Defence Department feels it must assert its right to station-based research because of reduced shuttle flights in the wake of the Challenger explosion, Soviet advances in space and Star Wars research requirements.

But the Defence Department official said "this is an evolution of our thinking" and not linked directly to the Challenger accident.

The Defence Department on Friday dismissed the Soviet Union's claim that it could easily foil a Star Wars anti-missile defence system, saying such a shield would not have to be impenetrable to be effective.

"There are a variety of ways in which advanced defences could maintain their effectiveness even in the face of Soviet counter-measures," the Pentagon argued.

"The very concept of layered defences is important in this respect. Moreover, advanced technologies could counter new types of offensive threats over time," it said.

Any system that could block most, if not all, nuclear missiles fired at the United States would complicate Soviet war planning, the Pentagon continued.

"To achieve the required level of survivability against defence suppression techniques, a defensive system need not be invulnerable, but must be able to maintain a sufficient degree of effectiveness to fulfill its mission even in the face of determined attacks," it said.

"The defences we seek would provide strong incentives to reduce offensive arms and strong disincentives for countering any shield."

U.N. unanimously adopts major reforms

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly has unanimously adopted major administrative and budgetary reforms aimed at rescuing the United Nations from bankruptcy.

U.N. officials hoped the action would placate critics in the U.S. Congress and bring about restoration of at least part of the \$110 million cut in the American U.N. contribution this year.

U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters, who had pushed hard for the reforms, hailed passage of the resolution saying: "It's a great day for the United Nations. It is great day for the United Nations."

Assembly President Humayun Rashid Choudhury of Bangladesh told the assembly "adoption of this historic resolution can truly be considered an achievement of this session of which all of us can be justly proud."

The agreement came after weeks of hard bargaining between the major donors, including the United States and Soviet Union, on one side, and the non-aligned majority on the other. Both sides claimed to have gotten what they wanted but agreed that good will would be needed to make the new system work.

The resolution includes a key demand of the United States, which made its cuts citing waste and mismanagement and demanding a greater influence on budget matters for the big donors.

The resolution says the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which is to play the key role in setting budget ceilings and content, should reach decisions by consensus — or by general agreement.

The consensus rule would, in effect, give each of the 21 members of the committee a veto, and thus more clout to the major donors represented on the committee.

During backstage bargaining, the consensus idea ran into stiff opposition from Third World countries jealous of the one-nation, one-vote provision of the U.N. charter. The provision gave them control over the budget though they paid only a small fraction of U.N. costs.

To reflect their concern, the resolution acknowledges that the budget-making process still is governed by charter provisions. This leaves open the possibility of deciding by majority vote if consensus is not reached in the committee, where Third World countries have an edge.

Without consensus, however, there is an implicit threat that the United States, the largest U.N. donor, would not pay its full assessed share of 25 per cent of the budget. In 1986, the United States paid only \$100 million of its \$210 million assessment, thereby bringing the world body to the brink of bankruptcy.



Einstein's letter sold for \$220,000

NEW YORK (AP) — Publisher Malcolm Forbes on Friday paid \$220,000 for a version of the letter Albert Einstein sent to President Franklin Roosevelt, urging him to pursue the possibility of an atomic bomb.

Before the sale, officials at Christie's Auction House had estimated the letter would go for \$40,000 to \$60,000. The letter was written in 1939, when Hungarian-born Leo Szilard asked Einstein's help in convincing Mr. Roosevelt of the need for an atomic programme.

Szilard wrote two letters of different lengths, and Einstein signed both. On Oct. 11, the longer letter was sent to Mr. Roosevelt. He responded by setting up the committee that ultimately resulted in the Manhattan Project. The letter that was sent is in the collection of the Franklin Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park. Forbes said he would place the letter he bought in his gallery in Manhattan.

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Soviet rock star takes part in Japan Aid concert

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet rock star Stan Namin joined American and British singers Saturday in kicking off a two-day charity concert modelled after last year's U.S.-British Live Aid benefit.

An estimated crowd of 20,000 attended the opening day of the 15-hour show heard music by Japanese and African artists performing at Jingu Baseball Stadium, officials said. Rockers Peter Gabriel and Howard Jones, as well as Nona Hendryx, Jackson Browne, Rebecca, Takako Shirai and the Crazy Boys and Yoshihiro Kai performed under sunny skies at the 34,000-seat stadium, said Shigeru Yoshida, spokesman for Japan Aid, the group organising the event. The concert, dubbed Hurricane Irene after the Greek goddess of peace, began at noon (0300 GMT) and was scheduled to continue for seven hours on Saturday, then begin again on Sunday for eight hours. Namin, whose six albums have sold 30 million records in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, was the first Soviet singer to make a rock video, and the first and only rock star whose group has toured abroad, organisers said.

Organisers hope to raise \$1 million from the concert, which is an official event of the United Nations' International Year of Peace. The money will be donated to the Japan UNICEF Association and the Tokyo-based United Nations University, as well to the University for Peace, a U.N. academic institution in Costa Rica.

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Theft reported from Tower of London

LONDON (R) — Thefts from Britain's most famous fortress, the Tower of London which houses the crown jewels, was reported by police. They said an ornate powder flask and a snuff box were stolen from a storeroom at the Tower's Royal Armoury where they were left while awaiting arrangement in a new display. The items, part of a set of sporting guns and equipment made as a present by the imperial arms factory for Empress Elizabeth of Russia in 1752, were on loan by an unidentified collector and were valued at a total of £12,000 (\$17,000). "But they are priceless in terms of their historical value," a police spokeswoman said.

The 147-page work, *Weapons in Space: The Dilemma of Security*, is believed to be the first published account for public distribution of possible counter-measures to any Star Wars system, known formally as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The report concluded that orbiting mines, space "shrapnel," lasers and dumbing missiles could foil any Star Wars threat and would be achieved through what the Soviet scientists called an "inexpensive, retaliatory 'too kit'."

The Star Wars programme is an effort to develop lasers and other types of exotic weapons that could be deployed in space or on the ground to automatically shoot down nuclear missiles fired at the United States or its allies.

The programme envisions the use of a mix of weapons in different layers moving from the ground to space, with each layer designed to attack nuclear missiles at a different stage of their flight.

Critics of the programme, including some prominent scientists, have dismissed the idea of erecting such a shield as technologically impossible. The administration has responded the feasibility of a space shield cannot be assessed without research. That is all it is doing at this point.

One significant aspect of the new Soviet report was a suggestion that Star Wars could be overcome by directly attacking it — a tactic known as "defence suppression" — as opposed to modifying nuclear missiles themselves to help them penetrate any shield.

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Togo sentences 13 coup plotters, bombers to death

LOME (R) — A Togolese court sentenced 13 people to death, 11 of them in absentia, for their part in an attempted coup against President Gnassingbe Eyadema in September and bomb attacks last year.

One of those condemned to death in their absence Friday night was Gilchrist Olympio, the British-educated son of Togo's first president, Sylvanus Olympio. The court said the son masterminded the coup attempt. Fourteen people were sentenced to life imprisonment at

the end of the two-day trial before a special state security court.

Four others were given one-year terms, one man was sentenced to one month in prison and three were acquitted.

During the coup attempt on Sept. 23, attackers described by authorities as a 60-strong "terrorist commando" tried to storm Eyadema's barracks residence in the strongest challenge to his 19-year rule. Twenty-six people were officially reported killed.

White House records only Reagan talks with foreigners, Speakes says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House does not have any tape recording system like the one installed during Richard Nixon's presidency, but does patch some of President Ronald Reagan's calls with foreign leaders through the situation room so they can be taped, a spokesman said.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said he was not aware of any, other than discussions with foreign leaders, that Mr. Reagan's telephone conversations have been tape-recorded.

Mr. Speakes said the calls were taped only occasionally, usually for record keeping purposes when a language qualified note-taker is not available. He said the patching system has existed since the early 1960s.

Mr. Speakes also said the situation room — the crisis-monitoring office in the basement of the White House — has a video conference system that is hooked up with the National Military Command Centre in the Pentagon, allowing officials to see and hear each other.

However, White House spokesman Dan Howard said the system has been used only rarely and that while it has the capability to record conferences, no recording has been done.

Mr. Speakes discussed the different systems after the Washington Post reported that "a sophisticated White House communications system that can record some telephone calls and meetings and preserve messages and documents written on National Security Council computer terminals may contain information on the secret Iran arms affair."

Mr. Speakes said: "We're not trying to buy anyone here."

Mr. Howard said the telephone recording system in the situation room amounted to a box-like tape recorder that has to be switched on manually to get the tape rolling.

It has been known for some time that the White House electronics system also includes a computer network for interoffice communications by staff members of the National Security Council, including Lt.-Col. Oliver North, who was fired last month for his role in the Iran-contra affair.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM

Both vulnerable. East deals.			
NORTH			
♠ A 9 8 3			
♥ J 3			
♦ Q 7 6 4			
♣ 5 3 2			
WEST			
♠ 7 6 4			
♥ 6 4			
♦ 10 9 8 5 3 2			
♣ J 4			
EAST			
♠ K 10 2			
♥ K 2			
♦ A K J			
♣ K Q 10 9 7			
SOUTH			
♠ Q J 5			
♥ A Q 10 9 8 7 6			
♦ Void			
♣ A 8 6			
The bidding:			
East	South	West	North
1 ♠	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠.			

When the lie of the cards favors declarer, you can sometimes create the illusion that bad things are about to happen. Few are better at this than Pakistani ace Zia Mahmood. Watch him weave his spell on declarer in a seemingly impenetrable four-heart contract.

The auction was brief and no one could quibble with South's decision to bid four hearts. It might

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